

THE AWARD-WINNING NEWSPAPER THEINDEPENDENT

TOP HOTELS
HENNAN'S HEROIC
DAVIS CUP FAILURE

Like an oil painting of hell – and still the dispossessed flood in



THROUGH THE river mist at dawn it looked like an oil painting of hell, with the added dimensions of smell and sound. The colours came from the clothing of the densely packed human flotsam that filled a wide valley as far as the eye could see. The rising, acrid smell was the one you get from an open drain. And the dominant sounds, faint but piercing in the almost cerie silence.

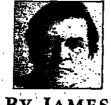
warmth and food. As the rising sun of Good Friday started to reveal this awesome panorama, the image of Golgotha, the hill at Calvary, came easily to mind.

were the cries of thousands of

infants urgently needing

It was impossible to tell how many people had been driven into the once pretty valley of River Lepenec, which slices across the border between Kosovo and Macedonia. It was certainly more than Wembley Stadium could hold. One aid worker, used to this kind of sight, said it was the biggest gathering he had seen in the 100,000 strong.

to a quarter of a million people have fied Kosovo since the bombing started on 24 March. But numbers have become meaningless in this savage land. These helpless people had spent many terrifying days running for their lives from a demented killing machine. But border will mean neither a new two-mile trek across the border.



BY JAMES Dalrymple

beginning nor a safe ending. They have escaped from the killers into a land that fears and detests them, and whose own terrified population could turn on them with new violence.

The Albanians of Kosovo are a tough and resourceful people, an ancient race who know how to survive. But Slobodan Milosevic's men had managed in a week to flush out the entire Albanian population of the province's capital, Pristina. Here, before our eyes in one small place, was almost a quarter of that population, systematically stripped of everything

nationality, citizenship, Kosovan tragedy, perhaps homes, possessions, money valuables, and every scrap of We learnt yesterday that up paper that gave them human status. Now, in the next few days, they will meet other kinds of enemies, disease, hunger and the open loathing of their host country.

They had arrived over a 20hour period, travelling first by train - 2,500 people brutally crushed into carriages dethe far side of this particular signed for 500 - followed by a

As their numbers swelled, the stench in the valley floor became ever stronger. It was worst by the river's edge and it was here that the mothers were bringing their babies. By now, many were beyond caring about the dangers of disease the same brackish water that was being used to clean the children was being boiled over camp-fires to let them drink.

Latrines had been created simply by hanging blankets over ropes and digging pits, but many, especially the young boys, used the river itself, despite the rage of their parents. Hundreds of Macedonian

troops, armed with machinepistols, formed a perimeter that stretched for miles. They allowed only a small groups through at time, to be "processed", given a white piece of official paper, and then loaded on to fleets of buses. At the rate they were going, it would take a month to clear the valley.

What was once a lush valley and a sweet river had now become something between an open cesspit and a gigantic landfill site. The grass had been turned into a muddy bog.

E Further reports

■ Leading article

Fergal Keane

The Serbs in Britain

Letters

littered with tons of discarded plastic water bottles and food containers and human waste; the river was heavily stained and full of floating garbage.

The much-vaunted multi-mil-

lion dollar aid rescue package. announced by President Bill Clinton on Thursday, was - as these things always are - in transit. There were only a few aid workers on site, and the medical staff were so overwhelmed that they simply waved people away unless they were on the point of death. Two old people were known to have died on the journey. Others will certainly die in the days ahead. Total exhaustion had

brought a kind of passivity. But there were outbursts of rage from mothers, carrying babies in their arms, who sneaked past the guards and made it up to the road. One of them, who wanted hot milk, was finally pushed aside by an exasperated Red Cross youth. Occasionally aid workers would toss cartons of fruit juice and bottles of water high into the air, making dozens jump to catch them. It was degrading, but the only way to get them to the crowd.

For a few hours, the journalists and television crews tried to interview individuals. But in the end we all gave up. And there came a point where it was difficult to look these people in the eye. Because everywhere the look was the same - a deadness in the eyes. a weariness that stretches to

the soul and makes the face a frozen mask. Every now and then, an old man or an old woman would begin to wail. They had survived the Nazi terror, persecution and famine - and for what? To approach the end of their lives in a muddy field without home

"They are a despised people in practically every part of the Balkans," said Paula Chedini. a young Japanese-American worker with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, as we stood on the hillside, stunned by what we were witnessing.

"They call them thieves and drug dealers and say they are dirty and breed like rats. But I have found them brave and determined. They care for each other, even if they are not part of an extended clan. Few national cultures are more kind to supportive of each other.

"Somehow they will have somewhere to go. They will not beg for help. They will have a destination, probably in westem Macedonia where ethnic Albanians have settled. And even the ones who do not have relatives will be taken in and given

a roof over their heads. I think. perhaps, they will never return to Kosovo, no matter what security is prepared for them. They are too frightened and they now have no homes. What they will do is merge into a new land and start again.'

That, however, may only be

the start of a new ordeal. A taxi driver who brought me to the border didn't mince his words. "They are trouble," he said. "They are always trouble. And soon, in Macedonia, they will have more people than we have. They have babies like battery hens. Soon they will be stealing and causing trouble, just like always."

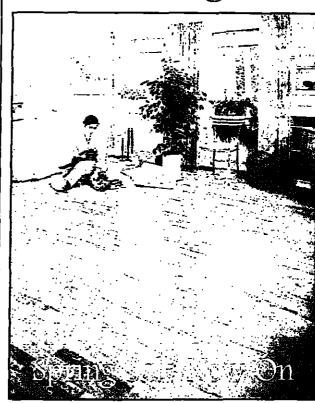
It was the language of the Balkans. The words and the thoughts that fester into hatreds that lead inevitably down the road to ethnic cleansing and

I looked once more over the seething mass of tragic humanity and was struck by the awful realisation that Milosevic and and his brand of ruthless barbarism might just be winning. In just eight days, his uniformed thugs have cleared an entire province of Europe, using the same techniques that the Nazi oppressors employed nearly 60 years ago.

Now. like a gambler who is contemptuous of the rules, Milosevic has put a gun on the table and swept away the chips - in this case the hundreds of thousands of ethnic Albanians. Soon he will be demanding a new deck and fresh deal.

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Kremlin corruption Yeltsin sacked his chief Tim Henman lost match corruption investigator to Jim Courier Sport P30 Foreign P15

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The People's Film Star.

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Robert Cariyle

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Milan Komnenic, Yugoslav Information Minister

"The gravest humanitarian catastrophe since the end of the Second World War" US ambassador

John Shattuck

"It is better to die with a gun at home than to be here like this"

> A refugee in his late 50s

"It's Schindler's List, it's the same feeling"

Flaka Surroi, Unicef assistant project manager from Pristina

"Our operations follow a thoroughly planned military rationale"

Nato spokesman, Air Commodore David Wilby

'Today is Easter. Brussels does not work"

Macedonia's Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Trajanov

*THE INDEPENDENT

KOSOVO

APPEAL

West failing to keep up with relief

THE AID CRISIS

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

THE WEST admitted yesterday it was failing to deal with the "catastrophic situation" created by the human tide of refugees flooding out of Kosovo.

More than 230,000 Kosovar Albanians have either fled or been forced from their homes since Nato bombing started a little over a week ago. Added to the 290,000 who left before the bombing began, it means that a quarter of the ethnic Albanian population has left the

Fleeing the savagery of the Serbs, they hoped for refuge across the borders. Instead they have encountered chaos and aggression.

This week a series of shipments of aid from Britain will be on its way to the refugees in Albania and Macedonia. Food. medical supplies, water purifiequipment and makeshift shelters are among the cargoes that Western aid agencies have prepared for the refugees. The problem facing the international community is how to get this aid to the people who need it. Confronted by poor transport infrastructure and, in the case of Macedonia, that a dictator could force so parcels by truck from Greece."

an increasingly unsympathetic government, aid is not getting

through to where it is needed. With another 30,000 refugees expected to leave Kosovo in the next few days, the situation threatens to get worse rather than better. Experts said yesterday that the next 24 hours would be crucial.

Lyndall Sachs, spokes-woman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, said: "The situation on the ground is catastrophic when you consider the number of people, the psychological trauma they have endured, the fact that they have nothing.

When I see the pictures [of refugees being forced onto cramped trains] there is a horrible symmetry to what was happening 50 years ago."

Many agencies had stockpiled supplies throughout last year in the Balkans in anticipation of problems in Kosovo. None expected they would confront such a huge number of people within such a short space of time

"Hindsight is a great thing," Ms Sachs said. "No one thought

many people out of a country in just a couple of days."

Oxfam yesterday sent two 20tonne flights of water and sanitation equipment - one to

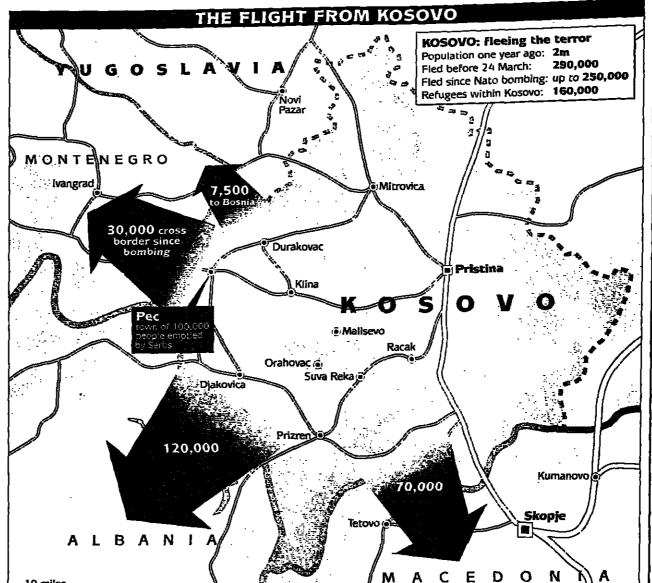
"The people who have left their homes have travelled with virtually nothing," said an Oxfam spokeswoman. "There is a great anger that in these circumstances they can fall prey to disease. Each of our flights will enable 75,000 people to have access to clean water." She also said that more flights were planned for later in

the week. Other agencies have been concentrating on providing food. "We have sent 22,500 food

The bulk of the refugees

more than 120,000 - have entered Albania while Macedonia has received 70,000 and Montenegro 30,000 refugees. A further 7,500 people have entered Bosnia. Macedonia, where the dominant Slavs have strong ethnic and religious ties to the Serbs, has said it can no longer cope with any more refugees and has appealed for international help.

Macedonia and one to Albania.



said Catherine Mahone, a spokeswoman for the International Red Cross. "Each package will feed a family of four for a week. They contain the basic things." Action Against Hunger, a charity, has also been providing food, supplying hot

meals for refugees entering

Macedonia. An RAF Hercules

sheeting yesterday morning. A further three Ministry of Defence flights are planned for

Thousands of people stranded on the Macedonian border are still sleeping in the open air and officials have said it is vital that these people are provided

flew out blankets and plastic with some sort of shelter. The and into the larger towns and log jam of people at the borders has been exacerbated by the problem that many have been stripped of all identification by

> "We are concentrating on providing money to pay for busses and trucks to get people away from the Albanian border

cities," said Fiona Fox of the agency Cafod.

Many of the British agencies are operating under an umbrella organisation, the Disasters Emergency Committee. The body will launch a united appeal for all its member agencies next week.

noid government seems de-

termined to shut them down.

dent Belgrade radio station,

The most popular indepen-

THE INDEPENDENT is anpealing to readers to help refugee victims of the war. Up to 250,000 Albanians have fled Kosovo. Impoverished neighbouring countries are overwhelmed by the columns of cold, distraught people with

cross to safety. British aid organisations at the forefront of the international relief operation say they need a massive injection of funds. Donations to *The Independent* appeal will be handled by the Disasters Emergency Committee, which represents 15 charities including Oxfam, the Red Cross and Save the Children.

no possessions and no means of support trying to

Since the exodus from Kosovo began last week, civilians have been flooding into Albania, Macedonia and the Yugoslav province of Montenegro. At least 100,000 refugees have entered Albania alone.

Money raised by The Independent will be used for food, shelter, clothes and sanitation for the displaced people. Tents, blankets and medical supplies are also being sent to the region. The weather is still wintry in the Balkans, and most of the refugees have only the clothes on their backs.

A telephone line has been set up by the Disasters **Emergency Committee to** take credit-card pledges to the appeal. Donations by cheque will be handled free by banks.

The appeal will be backed by a campaign of television and radio broadcasts and a number of newspaper advertisements.

HOW TO MAKE A DONATION

Send a cheque or postal order to: Independent Kosovo Appeal

Disasters Emergency Committee PO Box 2710

London W1N 5AD Cheques payable to

THE WORLD

EUROPE NOON TODAY

KOSOVO APPEAL Call: 0990 22 22 33 to make a

Sellia calls on Russia to supply military aid SERBIA WAS reported to have week had been flown to Russia. critical fuel supplies." he said, largely turned a blind eye to the

requested military aid from As east-west tension in-Russia in the war with Nato, as creases over the Kosovo crisis, the conflict shows more signs of spilling beyond the borders of former Yugoslavia.

The chief of Russia's general staff did not rule out offering military help to Yugoslavia but said he saw no need for it. at present. "Assistance is possible, depending on the situa-General Anatoly Kvashnin said Moscow said parts of the US F-117 stealth fighter lost over Serbia last

there were calls in Turkey for Ankara, which sympathises with the Kosovo Albanians, to block the planned passage through the Bosphorus of a Russian ship, the Limon, heading for the Mediterranean to monitor the conflict in the

The Limon left the Black Sea port of Sevastopol at dawn yesterday. The announcement

dozen reconnaissance ships to the Mediterranean has drawn expressions of alarm from the US that this may give "the wrong signal" to the Yugoslav leader Slobodan Milosevic.

Belgrade's reported plea for arms would contradict Serbia's claim that the war with the Kosovo Albanians, and with Nato, is heading towards a

Serbian state television announced yesterday that the rebel fighters of the Kosovo Liberation Army had been wiped out in their last remaining strongholds in the hilly centre

was, in effect, over The claim was disputed by Nato, which insisted that the KLA had not been defeated that Russia may send half a rapid, triumphant conclusion. but was regrouping and con-

of the province and that the war

tinuing to hold out in the central Pagarusa valley and elsewhere. Nato's military spokesman, Air Commodore David Wilby, said Nato air strikes were slowing the Yugoslav army's offensive in Kosovo, in spite of claims that the allied air campaign has run into trouble. "This cat and

[the Yugoslav army] to use up

LIGHTING UP

8.03pm 7.44pm 7.46pm 7.58pm 7.36pm 7.47pm 7.46pm

HIGH TIDES

southern Kosovo And in spite of its apparent victory, the Serbia government continued yesterday to use the conflict to strengthen its aumouse activity is causing them

thoritarian grip on the media. Although most opposition politicians and media outlets have loyally backed the Yugoslav President in his confrontation with Nato, and have

YESTERDAY

EXTREMES

immobilised an entire army

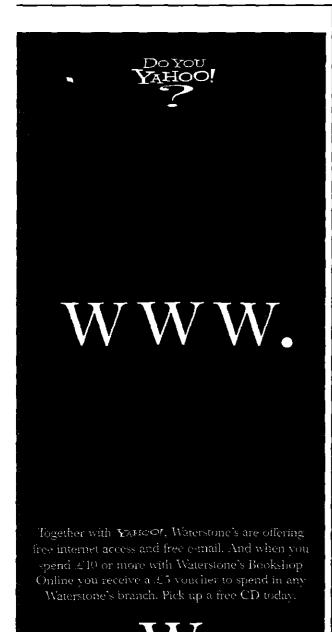
battle group near Djakovica, in

B-92, was closed yesterday when uniformed police burst inside, interrupting its broad cast. They handed down a court order, saying the B-92 director, Sasa Mirkovic, was dismissed and replaced with Aleksandar Nikacevic, a Milosevic loyalist.

adding that fuel shortages humanitarian catastrophe in

caused by Nato air strikes had Kosovo, an increasingly para-

Letters, Review, page 2



THE ABOVE OFFER APPLIES ONLY TO YOUR FIRST PURCHASE USING WATERSTONE'S BOOKSHOP ONLINE IT EXPIRES ON 30TH APRIL 1998 AND IS LIMITED TO ONE VOUCHER PER HOUSEHOLD OFFER AVAILABLE ONLY IN THE UK.

BRITAIN TODAY Noon today Temperature. °C FORECAST

nd, Channel Is, 5 Wales: A little brightness now and then but mosth h occasional light rain, Misty around southern coasts. Light or moder-easterly winds. Max temp 13-16C (55-61F).

ad, SE & NE Scotland, Edinburgh, Aberdeent Mist lifting, leaving lith a slight shower risk. Near the sea it might stay mety and cool, outh-easterly winds. Max temp 9C (48F) at the coast, 14C (57F)

iste of Map: Mist or fog patches lifting, Brief sunny spells Moderate South-easterly winds, Max temp 12-15C (54-59F).

TRAVEL London: A12 Greet Man Roundabout. London: A12 Green Man Floundabout. Leyfonsione. Major madworks on new M11 Ink road. Unit 31st December. Bristoti: M5 J18-19. Major Floadworks on Avournouth Bridge. Unit 23rd June 2001. Warwickshine: M42 Between J10 Tarmorin services and J9 Suffon Codifield: Roadworks and contrellow. Unit 23rd April. South Yorkshine: M1 Botween J34 Tinsine

Anglesey
Angenore
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Birmingham
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Buacon
Cardiff
Clacton
Cromer
Edinburgh
Exmouth
Fishguard
Folkestone
Glasgow
Hashings
Hove
Isle-of-man
Isle-of-wigh
Jersey
Kendal
Leeds
Lerwick
Utchehampto SUN & MOON WEATHERLINE the town is planning to hold its Christmas Fayre in June to avoid the rain and snow. organisers, said: "We did quite well considering, but we had people having car crashes because of the conditions and some people were snowed in."

Coldest (day): Laro 7C (45F) For 24hrs to 2pm Friday 0.3 0.3 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 1.5 5.0 4.0 6.1 9.7 9.7 7.7 8.5 4.6 11.4 10.9 5.4 6.9 4.2 11.1 5.0 66 033005000000 TOM G 20 15 20 15 15 17 21 17 63 12 54 14 57 15 59

RAIN OR SHINE... THE WINTER weather in the North Yorkshire fishing town of Whitby can be pretty inhos-So bad in fact that this year

Dorothy Krengel, one of the

THE ATLANTIC NOON TODAY

THE WORLD YESTERDAY

設定続できることと

THE CONTRACTOR OF THE STATE OF

Rosova Appeal

stationed in Germany. For its part, the Yugoslav

WAR IN THE BALKANS =

A shocked nation turns on Clinton

WITH THREE American least abreast of the refugee cri- House has also disseminated servicemen facing trial in Yu-sis, if not physically able to about the President in the past goslavia for espionage, more stem it, Mr Clinton received rep- two days has done nothing to inthan a third of the population of resentatives of US aid organi-Kosovo in flight, and the whole sations at the White House. Balkan region on the threshold The briefing seemed designed of chaos, President Bill Clinton to counter the criticism that has is facing mounting pressure to followed Mr Clinton's decision take some - any - dramatic ac- to spend Tuesday afternoon on tion to stop the biggest foreign the golf course – just as the first multiplicity of bad options. The policy crisis of his administra- reports of the refugee exodus hit commander in chief who evadtion running out of control. American television screens.

The White House has since But the luck that has been Bill Clinton's constant companion through the six years of afternoon off as reflecting his his presidency seemed to have own determination to clear his deserted him. head to deal with the gathering Yesterday, in a new attempt catastrophe. But talk of strain, to convince shocked Ameri-

spire public confidence in the leader's state of mind. On Day 10 of what has de-

veloped into an undeclared Western war on Serbia, Mr Clinton was trapped between a ed call-up to Vietnam, whose relations with the military have "explained" the President's been tense since his botched attempt to have homosexuals accepted into the armed forces and exacerbated by the perception of a double standard over the punishment of adulsleepless nights, a cold and altery, has found himself in US REACTION

By Mary Dejevsky in Washington

since the Gulf War. carries himself like a commander at military gatherings and salutes like a seasoned hesitation in telling him so. The ing machine as invulnerable. professional, his reluctance to order military action is well the Albanian population of Kosoknown. It has fuelled criticism in the military that he is halfhearted about it and does not province at gunpoint. Rather understand that if you hit, you have to hit hard.

Even as he evinces in public bian assault on Kosovo threatthe certainty that this war is a ens to destabilise Albania,

charge of one of the biggest de- just war and he has no doubts of Nato is in question. ployment of US forces abroad about the wisdom of prosecuting it, every decision he has Although Mr Clinton now made and then defended has cruelly rebounded - and every commentator in America has no "moral imperative" to protect vo has resulted in the Kosovars' wholesale expulsion from their than preventing a dangerous conflict from spreading, the Ser-

gional stability has opened a rift with Russia, and the credibility

While not militarily significant, the loss of a supposedly invisible plane and the capture of three servicemen threaten the Gulf War image of the US fight-

Especially worrying for Mr Clinton must also be the fact that his domestic poll ratings that held so steady throughout the Monica Lewinsky sex scandal have started to wobble over tion against those deemed re-Kosovo. Two weeks after being hailed as the most competent foreign policy President this

Macedonia and Montenegro. century, approval of his han-tacks on Iraq at the start of the The objective of preserving re-dling of foreign policy has Gulf War. slipped from 64 per cent to 54

the three Americans were

strikes against Yugoslavia is

also proving the least popular

of all his recent resorts to mil-

itary force. Only 53 per cent of

those polled approved, com-

His decision to order air

taken prisoner

Senior senators from both per cent - and that was before sides are expressing misgivings about the conduct of the military operation. Some sharp questions have been asked by the chairman of the Senate armed services committee, John Warner, about exactly why US troops were in Macedonia and under whose mandate they come.

pared with 74 per cent who supported air strikes against Mr Clinton is beleaguered as Baghdad last December, 66 per at no time before in his presicent who approved the retaliadency. His cool under political fire is legendary, as is his facility to escape seemingly intractable sponsible for the US embassy bombings last August, and the situations. But even he looks 79 per cent who backed air atanguished this weekend.

Ribbons bind the emotions of The Indicate Control of Table of Table

CAPTURED SOLDIERS
BY ANDREW MARSHALL in Washington

Michigan, on prison doors in could be found. "In the tight-East Texas and on a chain-link knit, blue-collar East LA comfence in a Los Angeles barrio, munity where [Andrew] yellow ribbons were fluttering Ramirez grew up, three flower in the breeze yesterday, bring- arrangements arrived in sucing together three very differcession at the modest stucco home of Andrew Ramirez Sr., ent parts of a nation. They were there to mark solidarity the soldier's father, who rewith the three Cavalry scouts mained in seclusion," said the captured by the Yugoslav army Los Angeles Times. on the Kosovo border, who "The capture of three Amerwere facing a military trial in ican soldiers, one from Los Kosovo yesterday. America Angeles, puts a face on the risks sometimes seems a fragment-ed, disjointed country, more LA Times editorialised. "It's the conscious of what divides it end of the 'Game Boy war'," than what unites it. Those rib- said Senator John McCain, a

confrontation, can create a

sage: "Come home safely

sense of common ground, albeit ceived calls from Governor George W. Bush and three US fleetingly. The incarceration of the Congressmen. The media has run admiring three men from the 1st Squadron of the 4th Cavalry portraits of all three, who until Regiment, known affectionateyesterday were nameless soldiers in an unknown country to ly as the One Quarter Cav, has brought America together and, most Americans. "Nice guys. apparently, made the country more willing to engage in the conflict in the Balkans - for the deal," said USA Today, demoment. But the vellow ribbons should be a reminder of something else: that this effect can That's a thing that they shouldn't do to anybody," be very fleeting, and that public opinion when Americans Michael Cordan, the shopare in harms' way can be keeper who sold Capac its yelvolatile, unpredictable and low ribbons, told the paper. highly dangerous for politicians "He probably put up a scrap," said Ed Colby, another citizen to mess with. The yellow rib-bons at Palestine High School, in deepest east Texas, were ac-The fact that two of the soldiers have Hispanic backcompanied by a simple mesgrounds has added to the sense

of solidarity. "It shouldn't take Steven Gonzales". His parents work for the Texas prison de- an incident in Kosovo to recognise Mexican Americans' conpartment, and there were yellow ribbons on the many jails of tributions to our defence," east Texas - even on death row. wrote a columnist in the LA Times. The fact that Yugoslavia In Capac, Michigan, where Christopher Stone grew up, planned to try these men under yellow ribbons were tied to its own military law further intrees, shops, lamp-posts, car censed people. The US would the minority - has risen.

ON SHOPFRONTS in rural aerials, and anything else that not permit a foreign trial for the Marine aviators who cut a cable in Italy and sent a cable car plunging to the ground, killing the occupants.

Alongside the pride and solidarity there is anger, summed up by General Wesley Clark, the Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, when he said: "We've all seen their pictures. We don't like it," adding: "We have a long memory about these kinds of things."

And everywhere, there is the stars and stripes: on the soldiers' left shoulders, behind President Bill Clinton as he spoke at Norfolk naval base, in the backbons are a reminder that mo-Republican who favours ground of the photograph of ments of crisis, threat, or ground forces for Kosovo. Sgt Stone's family in Texas has re-Specialist Gonzales held by his father as he brushed away a tear Mr Clinton struck the same note as Gen Clark, saying: "America looks after its own."

For the moment, the arrests have been the excuse for an increase in the rhetoric, a fillip of anger and concern. But there Frank Jasso (centre), the Dedicated military men. And are clear risks for the White tough enough to endure this or- House. Popular support for the war in Kosovo is well below scribing all three. "It looks like those for the attacks on Iraq they beat him up a little bit. and Afghanistan. The latest opinion poll, by USA Today, CNN and Gallup and taken before the capture of the three, reveals contradictory views. Public confidence in Mr Clinton's ability to conduct foreign policy has fallen sharply: a majority think the US will not achieve its objectives in Kosovo; and an overwhelming majority think that Nato's actions have made things worse in the Balkans. But a similarly overwhelming majority think that the air strikes will, in the end. improve things, and believes Mr Clinton can handle the situation. The number favouring



But the yellow ribbons hold

a larger political message for the idea comes from "Tie A Yellow Ribbon Round the Old Oak Tree," the song which Tony Orlando and Dawn made a hit in 1973. In 1979 when the US pied and Americans held hostage, yellow ribbons blossomed across the country. The crisis led President Jimmy Carter to mount an abortive and deadly raid in which US soldiers airstrip. Those fragile strips of fabric became a symbol both of America's desire to bring its people home, and of the failure of the White House. The ground troops - though still in hostages were eventually freed

Yugoslavia plays clever with propaganda game

THE RESPONSE

By ROBERT FISK in Belgrade

THE YUGOSLAVS know how to play the game. They watched the Iranians hold America's emhassy staff hostage. They observed how the Lebanese held report yesterday from Skopje, US hostages and threatened the Macedonian capital, stating them with execution. They noted how Saddam Hussein took hostages before the 1991 donian village of Male Katarinovac, close to the border, had Gulf War – the Iraqi military seen the three soldiers cross were once trained in Yugoslavia - and how the Americans always faltered the moment one of "their boys" was under

So the Serbs took three of America's soldiers and an- the Jeep keep on going in the nounced to the world that they direction of Slavojevac village, would be "put on trial" - sure on the other side of the border." would be "put on trial" - sure enough, on cue, the corld's only superpower is putting up

threat.

According to the Serbs, being instituted against James Stone, Andrew Ramirez and Steven Gonzales by Jovica Jovanovic, a member of the Kosovo Provisional Executive Council, the provincial - and Serb-run - local authority in lives. Pristina. The local Yugoslav 2nd Army Corps claimed that of the US 1st Infantry Division

the yellow ribbons again.

"criminal proceedings" are ing of the kind. It was, instead,

execution squads, the housethe Americans came from a burning and ethnic cleansing, and the alleged detention camps - all went by the board as the world concentrated its attention, not on half a million duction" - has played low on the trusted their fate to Nato.

that inhabitants of the Mace-

border guards warning them to

Nato is claiming that the

strange language, but on three home-town boys who speak English and appeared, bruised but very much alive, on Belgrade television a few hours after their seizure.

But is there a trial? Does A villager was quoted as Nato-or do the American peosaying "We heard the Yugoslav ple - really think that the mayor of Pristina is going stop-we were surprised to see through the motions of arranging a court appearance; that amid the chaos of Kosovo formally convened, complete with judge and jury?

capture of the soldiers was 'good propaganda" for Presi-It seems unlikely, however dramatically the Serbs report dent Milosevic. But it was nothit. As one Belgrade messenger, a masterful way of persuading America to turn the world's attention away from Kosovo's tragedy by demonstrating Washington's real priorities: the preservation of American The Kosovo Albanians, the

Radomir Diklic, said yestermany other Serbs - that he behad been taken prisoner, inchiding pilots, but that "our mil-

lowing long after national television reports on Serb refugees from Kosovo, Nato bombing news agency Tanjug carried a abused Muslims who speak a that caused three more Serb civilian deaths, and the Nato destruction of the old girder bridge in Novi Sad, which has cut off electricity from much of the town and effectively closed the Danube to traffic.

Serbs in Belgrade are now walking the great river bridges in Belgrade each night as "human shields" against further attacks of this kind in the capital. In Yugoslavia, three American soldiers do not take a military tribunal is going to be precedence over these events.

More important in Belgrade was the appearance of Ibrahim Rugova, the Kosovo Albanian leader, with Mr Milosevic on Thursday night. The Government here has now released a day, it is "part of the theatre of copy of a document bearing Mr the war". But he added - like Rugova's signature - the same lieved other Nato personnel month's Paris-Kosovo peace accord - demanding an end to the air strikes on Serbia. He itary are not releasing all the may very well be an unwilling details because they don't want guest of Mr Milosevic, but he realises now - all too well - that As usual, the capture of the the West will not risk a single American soldiers - the BBC, soldier's life for the Kosovo Serbs have noted, call it an "ab- Albanians who so solemnly



: **:** : :





Pregnant and told to go at gunpoint

THE WINDOWS of the sporty black Suzuki were misted up and Rabije Citaku looked up nervously as we knocked. "No. no it's fine, really it's OK," she said shyly in response to our offer of a room.

But Easter is not the season to be giving birth outdoors. even in Albania, and so Rabije. whose baby is due today. climbed out of the car and walked slowly over to the pink house we have rented for the refugee season in Kukes.

'It's genocide now, it's state terrorism," her husband, Nehat, said flatly, summing up the situation in Kosovo. We met Rabije and Nehat at the Morini border crossing on Thursday afternoon, 25 hours after they left Pristina, expelled at gunpoint, for the journey to northern Albania - "123 kilometres. I measured." said Nehat, in his accented English.

ALBANIAN BORDER

By EMMA DALY in Kukes, Albania

The couple were travelling with their sons Binar, six, and Baton, four as well as Rabije's sister Shqipe, her two-weekold daughter, Agona, and her two sons. It was quite a crowd for a small hatchback but comfort was the least of their

When we bid the family farewell at the border, they were heading for the local hospital in Kukes, the nearest town. But since Rabije was not yet in labour, there were no spare beds.

It was only because Nehat came to our rented house to call his relatives in London on our satellite telephone that we discovered the family's plight - he certainly did not ask for help. and his wife had to be persuaded, firmly, to accept our

meagre hospitality.
With mine journalists living in the one-bathroom, threebedroom house, which doubles as a television, photo and news agency office, space was a little cramped. But luckily we had bought extra camp-beds, just in case. So we packed the two women, four boys and one baby into one room, leaving Nehat to sleep in the car out-

They refused all sustenance save for some sour cherry juice and a few biscuits for the children - assuring us they had German marks to spare - but gratefully accepted use of the spartan bathroom, which has hot water.

Before bedtime, the women told us that Shqipe had lost track of her husband in Pristina and that their father had refused to leave his home and was still in the Kosovan capital, his fate unknown.

"We left Pristina because we had to leave Pristina - they gave us about five minutes to eave our houses and said if we didn't do that, we would take a bullet," Nehat, dark-haired and unshaven, had told us at the border. "So we just took some things - we were prepared - for the children, some things to eat, took the car and went in the convoy ... it was special police,

The family, like tens of thousands more, were barred from taking the main road south to Macedonia and were sent instead to the wilds of northern

"I heard that Pristina is an empty city now. I saw a lot of buildings on fire, then a lot of tanks, military, paramilitary forces, everything, just not normal life," said Nehat, an electronics graduate who worked as a car mechanic since Serbian apartheid in Kosovo restricted his job opportunities.

Normality is in short supply in Kukes too, which should be a dusty, sleepy mountain town in the back of beyond, a sevenhour drive from Tirana along hellish, twisting roads. As we another wave of refugees from ed Nehat. "But I hope it's going the Kosovan countryside arrived, mostly on foot. They were forced to sleep rough, in the freezing wind, in the city square, in schools, the mosque any space they could find. There are no washing or lava-

tory facilities - which explains the stench that lingers even outdoors in Kukes.

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Mothers

esire fo

Somehow, the international aid machine has yet to roll through northern Albania - apparently because the biggest organisations failed to predict that Kosovars would be forced to come here. Underestimating the spite of the Serbian ethnic cleansers, they thought most would stream along the main road to Macedonia, whose capital, Skopje, lies a convenient 15km from the Yugoslav border.

In the first five days, 127,500 refugees crossed the border here in vehicles. Untold thousands more passed on foot. They may be safe now, but thousands are cold, hungry, thirsty and scared.

It is frightening in scale and medieval in its barbarism, yet this is Europe. The press corps encamped in Kukes operates with tiny portable satellite telephones, laptop computers, digital cameras - there are now at least three television satellite trucks in town, which allow stations to broadcast live from the border And still the world cannot comprehend the scale of this war crime.

"Some of these faces look familiar - is it at all possible that people are walking around and coming back through?" one media executive thousands of miles away asked an incredulous reporter on the ground.

The answer is no, these people are not walking around in circles, the Serbs are actually expelling anyone they can get their hands on. Yugoslav soldiers are even escorting groups of refugees through the minefields that surround smaller border points, to ensure the Albanians they so hate and fear continue to leave Kosovo.

"You would not believe this. but our Serb neighbours wanted to take from us a lot of money so we could leave the country safely," Nehat said wryly. "Someone paid DM2,000 (£700) just to go with one car out of Pristina because of Arkan's famous people..."

This last a reference to the Tigers, a bunch of murderous villains led by Zeljko Raznatovic, whose hobby is slaughtering unarmed civilians.

Too bad, too sad," concl to be OK after ... a short time ... maybe ... who knows. We're expecting from the West a lot - air strikes, ground troops." And then?

"We have to build a life from the beginning. That's it."

Fears growing of coup in Montenegro

CONFLICT SPREADS

BY MARCUS TANNER

US Secretary of State, telephoned her support to the President of Montenegro yesterday as fears grew of an imminent coup in Yugoslavia's junior, pro-Western republic.

Britain accused the Yugoslav leader, Slobodan Milosevic, of plotting to topple the government of Milo Djukanovic, which has refused to declare a state of war in the republic, or denounce Western air strikes with much conviction. "We have evidence to show that he is preparing a coup against Montenegro," a Ministry of Defence official, Edgar Buckley, said in London,

In the Montenegrin capital, Podgorica, the government appealed for calm. "There is no reason to panic," a government minister, Predrag Drecun, said

But many disagree. Their fears were stoked by Mr Milosevic's decision on Thursday to fire General Radosav Martinovic, the army commander in the republic, and replace him with Milorad Obradovic, a trusted hardliner who can be relied on to follow Belgrade's orders.

"These moves must be recognised for what they are a plot to dislodge an elected government," Mr Buckley said. We shall be watching the situation very carefully.

Montenegro has infuriated the Serbian leadership by seeking closer ties to the West, refusing to endorse the hate campaign against ethnic Alba-

MADELEINE ALBRIGHT, the nians, and by publicly floating plans to secede from Yugoslavia. If Montenegro leaves, Yugoslavia would consist only of Serbia. Until 1991, Yugoslavia

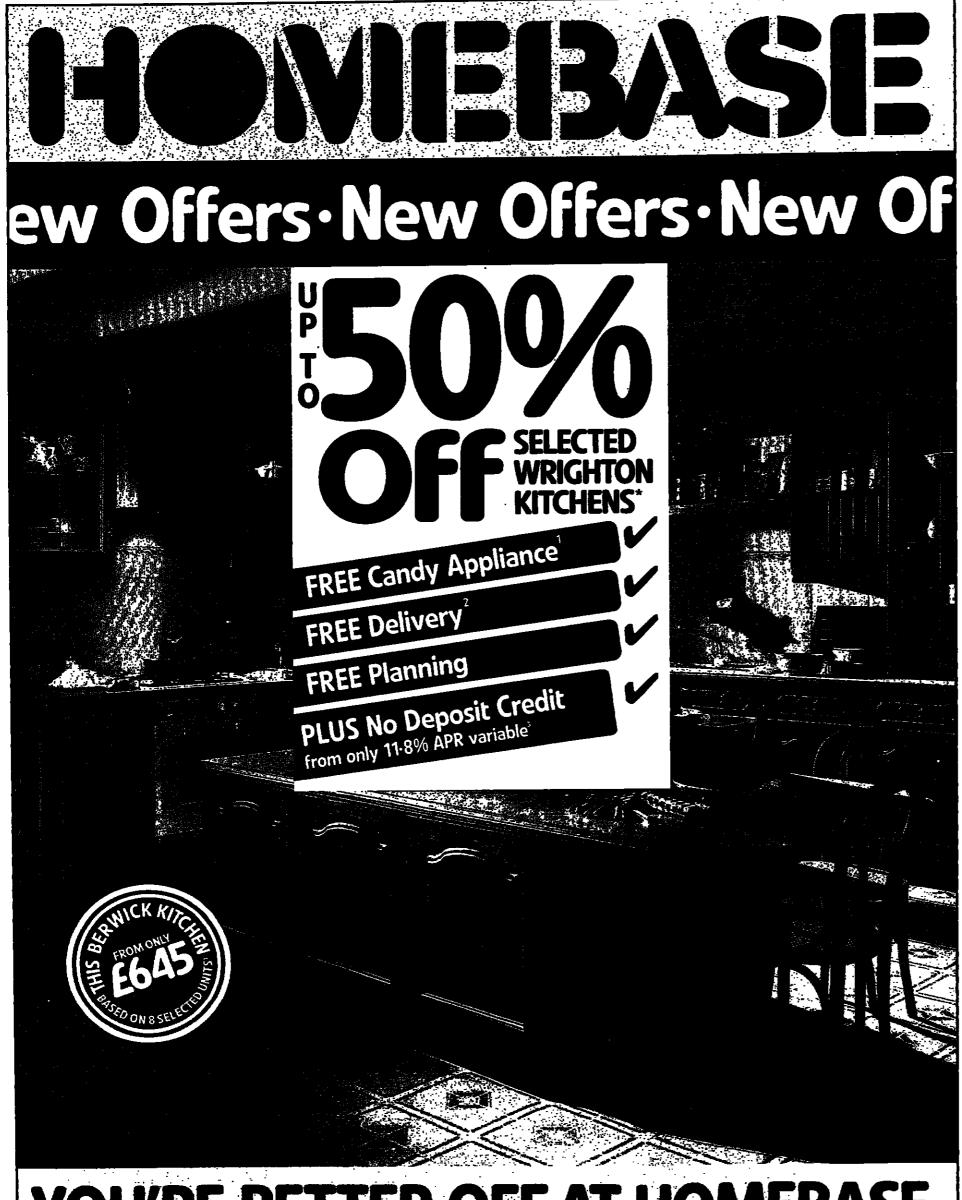
comprised six republics. A Serbian coup would strike terror into the 30,000 Albanians who have fled to Montenegro from Mr Milosevic's army. paramilitary police and death squads in Kosovo. "If those butchers from Kosovo come here, we are in trouble," said one senior local Montenegrin politician

Ferhat Dinosa, a leader of the local Albanian party, tried to put on an optimistic gloss. "Milosevic will try to gain control. But everyone here has seen what happened in Bosnia and what is happening in Kosovo."

There are suspicions that the flood of Albanian refugees into Montenegro may help to serve Mr Milosevic's purposes in the republic by upsetting the fragile ethnic balance. Until last week, Albanians made up 6 per cent of the 600,000 population but the flow of refugees is altering the percentage. Serbia already has many

supporters in the republic. The main opposition party, the Socialist Peoples party, is vehe-mently pro-Milosevic and bitterly opposes both secession and the present government's pro-Western tilt.

The US has said any attempt to undermine Montenegro's government could extend the conflict with Nato.



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Nato faces a division in ranks

ALLIED CAMPAIGN

BY KIM SENGUPTA

RECRIMINATIONS AND accu- tions that intelligence assesssations are growing within se-ments that air strikes alone nior Nato ranks over the alliance's policy and its apparent failure to inflict significant machine or halt the tide of ethnic cleansing in Kosovo.

At briefings yesterday, allied military chiefs publicly insisted that the campaign of air strikes will continue. Video footage was shown of bridges, barracks and other targets being hit by bombs and missiles. But at the same time they were forced to admit that bad weather had once again prevented most of the planned attacks from taking place.

Criticism of the allied efforts was more vocal in Brussels and Washington than in was pointed out that life in caused by the bombing. The London. There were allega- Belgrade appeared to continue dwindling stocks were being

would not stop a Serb offensive against Kosovars were ignored.

Adding to the controversy, a damage on the Serbian war Kosovo Liberation Army commander, Shkem Dragobia, yesterday accused Nato of betrayal, saying the Kosovars had been asked not to mobilise and arm themselves, on the understanding that Western powers would protect them.

This they had failed to do. said Mr Dragobia, and if Nato continued to refuse to commit ground forces, the KLA should be provided with armour and heavy artillery.

There was also sceptical questioning of Nato tactics at a Serbian forces were suffering briefing in Brussels, where it from serious fuel shortages

An F-15 fighter flying over an Awacs aircraft at the Aviano air base in northern Italy vesterday as normal. A spokesman, Jamie Shea, said the alliance would not be using President

of hitting civilians. A Nato spokesman, Air Commodore David Wilby, said the allies were in for a long haul. "This will not be a short campaign," he added.

However, he stressed that the attacks were effective and

further depleted by their "cat encountered light missile acand mouse" tactic of regularly moving armour around to avoid Slobodan Milosevic's methods being hit. Shortage of fuel had immobilised an entire Yugoslav and was determined to avoid army battle group near the collateral damage and the risk town of Djakovica in southern

> Fuel and bread shortages were also hitting ordinary Yugoslavs outside Kosovo, and there was a military call-up of men aged between 16 and 60, some of whose passports were being confiscated to prevent them leaving the country, Nato

Overnight, Nato aircraft had

tivity and the anti-aircraft radar threat had lessened.

Air Commodore Wilby said cloudy weather in and around Kosovo had again hampered Nato air operations, but a "full spectrum" of targets had been attacked. US B-1 bombers had gone into action for the first time, "increasing the tempo and effectiveness of our campaign", he said.

Attacks had focused on lines of communication such as bridges and on the Yugoslav forces' staging areas and headquarters facilities.

The B-1 is part of a steady build up of the Nato arsenal. Eight RAF Tornados are now on stand-by at their base in Germany and an extra four Harriers sent to Italy are also fully

operational. The submarine HMS Splendid, which is believed to be in the Adriatic, is expected to be joined by a number of other naval vessels.

More hi-tech weapons were delivered yesterday to RAF pilots waiting in Italy for a break in the weather to resume air strikes So far the Harriers stationed at the Gioia

6:18am: Nato missiles hit military barracks in Vrange, 300km south of Belgrade.

TIMETABLE

9:54am: Yugoslavia's independent radio station B-93 is shut down.

10:53am: Albanian President Rexhep Mejdani offers his country as an allied base.

11.20:am: Nato says that overnight cloud hindered air strikes.

11:48am: Britain accuses Slobodan Milosevic of plotting a coup in Mon-

tenegro

del Colle base have carried out

only two successful raids where

Yugoslav officers commanding

army units in Kosovo and called

on them to refuse orders to

carry out atrocities. Failure to

do so, it was stressed, could

lead to them facing war crimes

Nato has also instructed the commanders of its 12,000-

strong force in Macedonia to

provide transport and other

logistical support to deal with

the massive influx of refugees

Nato yesterday named six

the targets were hit.

charges

from Kosovo.

12:20pm: Yugoslavia says the three captured US soldiers will be well-

2:13pm: Serbia says that Nato aircraft attacked targets around the central town of Klina.

2:51pm: Serbia says the three US soldiers will face

military court proceedings tomorrow. 3:10pm: Britain names

six Yugoslav officers commanding army units in Kosovo and calls on them to refuse orders to carry out atrocities.

4:29pm: America condemns Yugoslav plans to put the three USsoldiers on trial before a "kangaroo court".

Mothers with no desire for a fight

GERMAN REACTION

By IMRE KARACS in Berlin

less," says Ilona Rothe. "It's a crime what's happening to them. I don't know how I would feel if I weren't personally

cause her son is one of 3,000 German soldiers awaiting orders in Macedonia. So she is against the war in the Balkans. against Nato air strikes, and bitterly opposed to German participation.

Ms Rothe is the founder of Mothers Against the War, a movement only a week old but already enjoying national fame. It began with a heart-rending proclamation in the form of a reader's letter addressed to a Berlin newspaper, accompanied by Ms Rothe's telephone number. Since then, she has received more than 1,000 calls and appeared on television chat shows, and there is now talk of sending her to sort it all out with

Slobodan Milosevic. We have touched a nerve in Germany," she says. "I hear the women crying on the telephone for their sons or their hus-

Outside the Balkans, no country in Europe has felt the trauma of war as acutely as Germany, now striding into the does not think she is being quagmire of Yugoslavia, its sol-diers and their relatives unprepared for shedding blood.

epared for shedding blood.

Ms Rothe's 24-year-old son

drunk with Milosevic... They know what kind of a guy he is."

THE ALBANIANS are help-name-signed up for the Bun-But German public opinion. deswehr (the German army) four years ago, expecting little travel and even less action. For the past three weeks, they have all been waiting in Macerecently would have been un-

They lie awake at night, get up at half past five in the morning, and the first thing they do is listen to the news," says Ms Rothe. "All sorts of questions are swirling in their heads: What happened last night? What if

they fired a rocket at us?'." So far, Ms Rothe's son and his comrades have done nothing more violent than polishing their gun barrels, but the Luftwoffe (air force) is dropping bombs on the Serbs every day. and the use of ground troops is becoming more likely.

Ms Rothe is trying to prevent that by giving peace a chance. "I heard an interview with a Serbian mother, in which she said, I want my son, I don't care about Milosevic'. That's how I feel," she says.

Her group proposes that "all weapons fall silent immediately", and that representatives from all sides gather round the negotiating table. No, she naive; naive were the Western politicians "who had eaten and

despite the traditional misgivings, is slowly coming round to the view that "something must be done". According to the latest polls, 28 per cent reject 47 per cent think that the Bundesirehr should not stay out if Nato soldiers cross into Kosovo.

But faced with pictures of fleeing Albanians, support for air strikes has increased, with 62 per cent of Germans now in

While German newspapers remain at best sceptical, and politicians on the left campaign. for a ceasefire, one group of Germans has undergone a spectacular metamorphosis: the Greens are pacifists no longer. According to the latest polls, 72 per cent of Green supporters say that the air strikes are justified.

If the Yugoslav government wanted to destroy Nato's resolve by engineering a humanitarian catastrophe. the gambit has clearly failed in Germany.

The images of civilians in flight from organised brutality are painfully familiar here, triggering knee-jerk reactions that Germans thought they had purged long ago.

"I must say, when I look at Milosevic, he reminds me of Hitler," says Ms Rothe.

"Couldn't somebody poison There are no easy answers. him?" she asks, only half in jest.

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THE EASY ROUTE TO THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY

Battles rage unseen from Africa to Asia

WARS AROUND THE WORLD

BY KIM SENGUPTA AND CHRISTOPHER BRADING

form the government, there has

been civil war since 1983. The lat-

est victims of the conflict are

mer Yugoslavia and the tide of anti-aircraft tactics are based on the Iraqi experience. refugees it has created has become the focus of international media attention. But, away South Lebanon Army are enfrom the cameras, there are meshed in Lebanon in a conflict dozens of wars going on .round against Hizbollah guerrillas the world today, and 30 million displaced people living on aid Israel itself.

handouts as a result. Virtually unreported now and the government have been are the hostilities of the last blamed for massacres of civilpolicing action by the West against what it considered an ians. Government troops yesterday regained control of a errant power. Yesterday allied guerrilla stronghold east of Aiplanes pounded targets in Iraq, giers after an offensive in which and Baghdad claimed US 50 rebels and 16 soldiers were planes struck at the town of reported killed. Afaj, south of the Iraqi capital, In Sudan, where Islamists injuring two civilians.

Adversity has brought Sad-

dam Hussein and Slobodan

Milosevich together. There are

regular contacts between the

THE CONFLAGRATION in for- countries and some Serbian er who were killed by the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army after being taken captive. Israel and its client, the In Kashmir, Muslim separatists are fighting to expel In-

dian forces. Eleven civilians and four rebels were killed yesterday that frequently spills over into in clashes with police and army. In Angola, a ceasefire has all Islamist militants are also in but broken down and this week action in Algeria, where rebels

heavy fighting has been taking place in Malarne, gateway to the capital, Luanda, with both government and rebel forces claiming successes. In the past few days forces loyal to the Sierra Leone gov-

ernment have retaken the strategic diamond town of Segbwerna from rebels. Here, however, there are hopes of a settlement, with the government agreeing to let the detained rebel leader. Foday three Sudanese government ofmilitary hierarchies of the two ficials and a Red Crescent work- Sankoh, meet his supporters.

Frewer schools failing shoods it falling for the first time. David Blunkett, Secretary of State for Education Billion The NUMBER of failing schools it falling for the first time. David Blunkett, Secretary of State for Education will tell a leachers' union conference related pay for teschers just be secretary of state for Education will tell a leachers' union conference of State for Education will tell a leachers' union conference of the State for Indiana special of the Indiana special of Indiana sp

He will also defend his plans

Now, Mr Blunkett says, for

years will be closed or out of dif-

the even more explosive issue

warned that the Government

isters achieve ambitious tar-

Blair to face jobs for the boys' inquiry

TONY BLAIR has been summoned to appear before MPs as part of an unprecedented investigation into prime ministerial powers of patronage and the last vestiges of Whitehall's old-boy network

Mr Blair would be the first prime minister to give evidence to a Commons select committee if he complies with the inappointments that remain closed to public scrutiny.

The Public Administration Mr Blair's personal power to select Britain's European commissioners, royal-commission members, archbishops and museum board members. His office also has powers to appoint Regius professors at Oxford, Cambridge and London universities.

The committee decided in private this week to write to the Prime Minister to take part in what it claims will be the biggest-ever investigation into the workings of what remains of the British establishment. It has already embarked on an inquiry into appointments to ouangoes but has now decided to widen its remit to include the highest posts of all.

Downing Street officials involved in the confidential appointments process will be from posts thought suitable asked for evidence. As the only for white. Anglo-Saxon Prime Minister has to make his for some posts, it is also possible some Buckingham Palace officials will be called.

Labour, Tory and Liberal Democrat MPs believe that in an age when most aspects of public life are open to vigorous investigation it is an anachronism to retain sweeping prime ministerial patronage.

The Parliamentary Com-

Political Correspondent

the Committee on Standards in Public Life and the Commissioner of Parliamentary Appointments have spent recent years ensuring high standards, but none has a direct role over

Mr Blair's appointments. The Committee on Standards in Public Life, which was first chaired by Lord Nolan, was brought in by the Major government in an attempt to re-Committee wants to expose move the suspicion of sleaze that hung over MPs.

Rhodri Morgan, MP for Cardiff West and chairman of the Public Administration Committee, said it was time that the higher reaches of the establishment submitted itself to the "Nolanisation" that had affected other areas of public life in the past four years.

We want to shed some light into this murky corner of the democratic system that seems to remain for ever free of the principles of fair play, external assessment and natural justice that apply to other appointments," he said. "These are the last hold-outs of tradition, the ultimate bastion of the great and the good. They sustain this old-boys network that keeps out women and ethnic minorities

maies. The days of sending out the cabinet secretary down to the Reform Club to find someone who fits the bill should be over. These jobs should be advertised openly and monitored to ensure equal opportunities."

The MPs believe that an appetite for reform already exists, as Mr Blair has announced he will give up his sole right of patronage to recommend life missioner for Public Standards. peers to the Queen.



Radio Operator Dean Arnott and Royal Navy colleagues hang 1999 hot-cross buns in an Easter rite at a pub in Bow, east London Nicola Kurtz

Britons shun beaches to go shopping

heading for shopping centres rather than beaches over Easter, after weather forecasters said temperatures would not be as high as they had earlier predicted. Although London and parts of Scotland saw temperatures of 18C yesterday, much of the country was overcast with showers.

Mike Needham, national forecaster at the Meteorological Office, said: "There has

THOUSANDS OF motorists are By Linus Gregoriadis

cloudy in a lot of places and cooler than yesterday."

The best Good Friday sunshine was in Scotland where skiers at Aviemore enjoyed temperatures of almost 19C. In contrast, the South-west had showers and temperatures of

Forecasters had earlier predicted temperatures of up to shopping centres. Some of the

Holiday Monday, but the Met Ofbeen sunshine around but it is fice yesterday said that cloud side shopping centre in Thurwould spread across the country today and bring rainfall to many regions. Mr Needham said the highest temperatures for the rest of the weekend were

likely to be below 18C. Nick Spears, of AA Roadwatch, said motorways were busy yesterday with much of the heaviest traffic around

M25 in Essex, near the Lake-

some heavy holiday traffic. such as on the M4 heading west, and quite a few caravans on the A12 heading towards the Essex coast, but nothing has

A convoy of lorries is expected to cause congestion today as freight drivers stage a

22C for tomorrow and Bank worst congestion was on the protest against increases in fuel and road tax announced in last month's Budget. The demonstration is expected to start at 9.30am at Harwich with truckers planning to hold up traffic on the A120, the A12, parts of the M25 and then the M11. The convoy is planning to turn around at junction 8 of the M11 near Stansted before returning to Harwich. Police say the protest will last for around

'Yesterday' is best song of century

BY ALEX RICHARDSON

THE BEATLES hit "Yesterday" has been voted the 20th Century's top song in a new poll, the results of which are being broadcast over the Easter weekend. Using a combination of lis-

teners' choices, favourites picked by a panel of songwriters and sales figures, BBC Radio 2 has produced a list of the top 100 songs of the past 100 years. The poll focuses on songs

themselves rather than particular artists' versions of them, and they are listed by songwriters rather than the bands or singers who performed them. Top of the tree is "Yesterday",

penned by John Lennon and Sir Paul McCartney - probably the world's most celebrated songwriting partnership. The ballad, written in 1965, is the most covered song of all time, with more than 2,000 different versions.

In second place - perhaps a surprise choice - is the 1929 ballad "Star Dust" by the American composer Hoagy Carmichael. Third place is claimed by

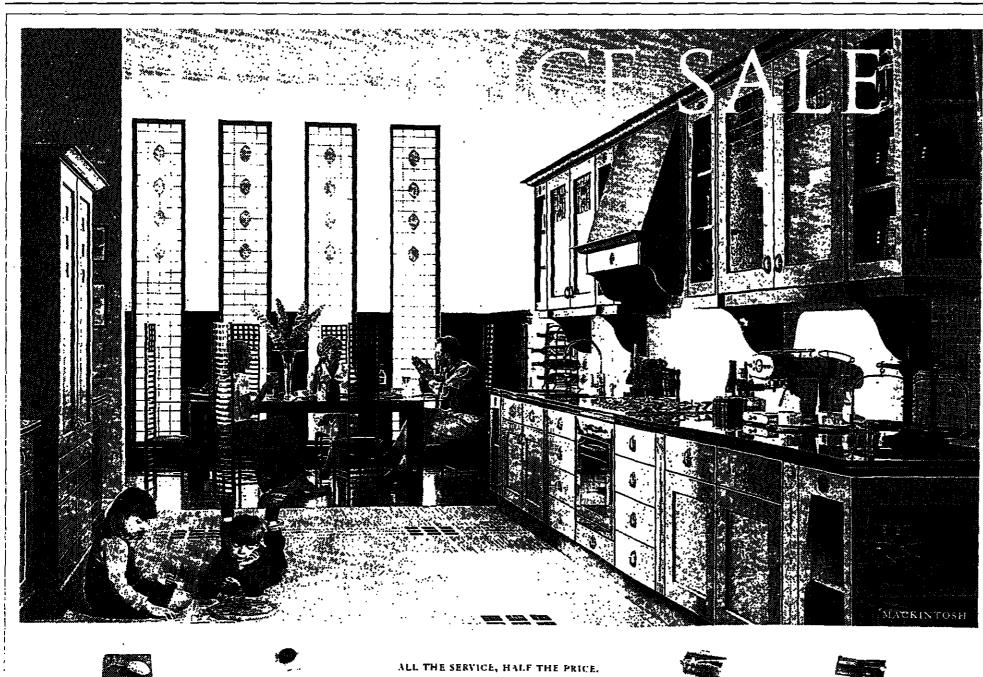
Paul Simon's "Bridge Over Trou-

bled Water", with Irving Berlin's "White Christmas" fourth. Sir Elton John's "Candle In The Wind" appears at number 13, with the Queen hit

"Bohemian Rhapsody" 18th. Other classics of the 1960s and 1970s such as "Like a Rolling Stone" and "American Pie" are represented, along with wartime favourites such as "Keep The Home Fires Burning" and "A Nightingale Sang In

Berkeley Square". Only two tunes from the 1990s make the century's top 100 - Bryan Adams' "Everything I Do" and Celine Dion's

"My Heart Will Go On". Paul Gambaccini presented the first instalment in a full rundown of the poll on his Radio 2 show yesterday, and will continue tomorrow between 5pm and 8pm and on Easter Monday from 12 noon to 2pm.



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BY PAUL LASHMAR AND ALEX DUVAL SMITH

carrying the two Libyan men

accused of the 1988 Lockerbie

flight from Tripoli is tight, so

only when the jet lands will the

world known for sure that the

Libyan leader, Colonel Muam-

mar Gaddafi, has kept his word

of the families of British victims,

whose daughter died in the

bombing, is sure that Colonel

is the best option to find out why

our loved ones died," he said. e said the handover would

represent a successful out-

come for the families determi-

nation to get a trial. "It ends a

10-year emotional roller-

transportation and handover of

the suspects is Hans Corell, a

UN legal officer. He leaves for

Tripoli today and, if all goes ac-

cording to plan, he will return

with the accused men, Abdel

Basset Ali al-Megrahi and

On arrival, the Libyans will

give themselves into the custody

of Dutch police officers and be

taken to a safe house in Ams-

terdam. The formal process of

extradition then begins, to trans-

Lamen Khalifa Fhimah.

The man in charge of the

coaster ride," Dr Swire said.

"A hard-nosed criminal trial

Gaddafi will fulfil his pledge.

Jim Swire, a representative

to hand over the two men.

Security surrounding the

aircraft bombing.

PENDENT April 1999

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handover is 'hours away'

> often-stated willingness to accept a trial in a "neutral" venue. Colonel Gaddafi accepted Fhimah to the custody of Scottish police officers and take the Netherlands as the venue but problems remained, inthem to Camp Zeist, a former air base near The Hague. The base cluding where the men would has been deemed Scottish terserve their sentence if they ritory for the trial. There the two were convicted. Those outmen will be charged with killing standing issues have been re-270 people, mostly Americans and Britons, aboard Pan Am solved. It has been agreed that any sentence imposed would be flight 103 and in Lockerbie, served in Barlinnie Prison in Scotland.

> It has taken another seven months to make the handover possible. The greatest credit for that the two men arranged for this must go to President Nela suitcase containing a bomb to son Mandela of South Africa. be loaded on to the flight. The who has undertaken several suspects are accused of being journeys to Libya at the request Libyan intelligence agents. of the Lockerbie victims' families. It was Mr Mandela and Once Mr Megrahi and Mr Saudi King Fahd, who on a Fhimah are in the Netherlands, visit to Tripoli on 19 March, perthe UN secretary-general, Kofi suaded Colonel Gaddafi to

> > agree the deadline of 6 April. President Mandela's role as honest broker and guarantor was the clincher for Colonel Gaddafi and overcame his deep suspicion of Anglo-American double dealing. Last week the Libyan leader reasserted that the men were to be delivered to

the court by the deadline. The Libyan news agency Jana said: "Mandela confirmed to brother leader Gaddafi that things were going as desired and in accordance with the agreement with the United Nalast summer, Robin Cook, the fer Messrs Megrahi and Foreign Secretary, persuaded tions over the Lockerbie issue."



Sue Burke with three-week-old Katie, who has become the smallest patient in Britain to be fitted with a pacemaker

Pacemaker fitted to 4lb baby

A PREMATURE baby has made BY JULIAN MCOLDE history by becoming the smallest patient in Britain to receive a pacemaker.

Katie Burke underwent open-heart surgery hours after she was born, weighing slightly more than 4lb.

Doctors said that the operation on the girl. from Stetchford, Birmingham, had been a success. Katie, who is now three

weeks old, was born with a hole in the heart. She was moved to

ham, a day after she was born for an immediate operation to repair it. Surgeons fitted her pacemaker eight days later.

Consultant cardiologist Joe De Giovanni said: "It is unique because it is the first time a pacemaker has been made for a baby so small. It had to be specially configured to take a very small wire into Katie's heart be-

cause her veins are so tiny. "Usually the wires are much the Diana Princess of Wales bigger and, although small Children's Hospital, Birming- pacemakers have been pro-

duced before, one which could by sending an electrical charge of beat, making exercise or exwork from such a small wire from a tiny lithium battery had never been developed." He said he expected her to

be able to live a normal life

thanks to the technology behind the pacemaker. Her mother, Sue, 36, who was told her baby had a heart defect after scans while pregnant, said: "We're just so relieved she

She's a lovely colour." Pacemakers, which are usually fitted in a relatively minor arm." The first pacemakers. operation under general anaes-

seems to be doing so well.

down a wire to the heart mus-

They are often placed in a

pocket under the skin of either the abdomen or the collarbone. Dr De Giovanni said: "Usually pacemakers are inserted into the front of the chest in older patients, but in Katie's case there wasn't enough room or fat to take the machine, so we had to hide it under her

ertion difficult. But modern variants monitor body functions with a microchip, and increase the heart rate where appropriate.

The beauty of the pacemaker is that, given the relative ease with which it can be fitted, it is suitable for patients of almost any age.

While Katie is certainly one of the youngest to be helped by the device, David Henderson, from Grampian, had one fitted which were introduced almost in February 1997, at the grand thetic, regulate the heart beat 40 years ago, did vary the rate old age of 107.

Banks swim in whisky galore from conned credit card users

THREE HIGH street banks By ANDREW MULLINS ¥ been landed with a £70m ky loch after credit card users were conned into buying he spirit as an investment by

As many as 6 million bottles

AND MARIN ISARK

Dumfries and Galloway.

The Scottish detectives who

investigated the disaster say

they have compelling evidence

Both men deny the charges.

Annan, is to write a letter to the

Security Council that would sus-

pend sanctions imposed on

Libya in 1992. The complete

cessation will be a formality at

since sanctions were imposed

was lost in a diplomatic stale-

mate as the UN tried to find a

way for the trial to be held in a

Scottish court. The Libyans

did not believe the men could

get a fair trial in either Britain

or the United States. Then,

Much of the seven years

the next full UN meeting.

books because credit card users were misled when they "invested" at up to nine times the whisky's real value.

Potential investors received

promising returns of up to 18. per cent a year as their hogsheads matured.

People who bought their bills on to the banks because. under the Consumer Credit out to be worth £400." Act of 1974, lenders are reible if the sale is clinched

Brian Berry, a retired chem- was telephoned by a firm based Kent, said vesterday. "They phoned me and convinced me whisky on credit can pass their to buy a hogshead for £1,000 when I had it valued it turned

His original purchase was made from Cavendish Wine the of malt : ind ended up on the banks' cles in national newspapers by misrepresenting the goods. Merchants. Months later he

istry teacher from Herne Bay, in Gibraltar, who claimed to be connected: "I should have got suspicious then," he said. He bought another hogshead for £3,000. He also convinced his son to invest and was rewarded by the company with a free bot-

whisky broker from Glasgow has been contacted by Barclays Bank. He said: "I wouldn't be surprised to find the banks have 15,000 casks." Each cask holds about 400 bottles. The banks are hoping to cut

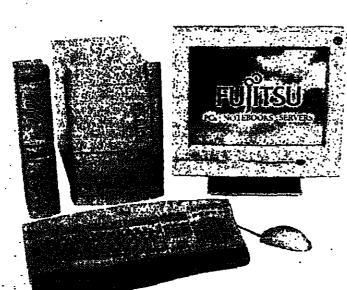
their losses. A spokeswoman for Lloyds TSB refused to re-

it had matured they would be trying to get the best price possible for it.

NatWest, are in a worse position woman for Barclays said yesthan they might be after a col-terday that any evidence that lapse of the Far East market, this was taking place could "inwhich once accounted for 20 per validate" any claims by Bar-

companies are reputed to be citing the credit card law as a failsafe guarantee for their The banks, including the sceptical clients. But a spokesclavcard holders.

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Hardline Unionists resist arms deal

NORTHERN IRELAND politi- By DAVID MCKITTRICK cians spent vesterday digesting the outcome of this week's Hillsborough Castle negotiations on arms decommissioning, and wondering how the Ulster Unionists and Sinn Fein will withstand the strains.

The document that emerged from the talks is seen as posing problems for both sides, as it requires decommissioning from republicans and the subsequent acceptance by Union-

ists of Sinn Fein in government. Sinn Fein and the IRA traditionally resort to holding many meetings at many levels when considering matters of such obvious importance, so it may be some days before a considered response emerges.

Loyalist paramilitary groups are also being asked to decommission. One initial response from loyalist sources was to ask why they should give up their guns for the purpose of facilitating Sinn Fein's entry into government

Within David Trimble's Ulster Unionist Party two MPs who are known for their opposition to the Good Friday Agreement gave critical responses to the document. Their comments are seen as signalling a campaign is under way within the party to prevent Mr Trimble going ahead with the establishment of an executive

that would include Sinn Fein. The West Tyrone Ulster Unionist MP William Thomp-"almost incomprehensible", to a conclusion."

Ireland Correspondent

saying his party could not enter "flimsy and indeterminate" policy. The idea of even nominating members to an executive without decommissioning was unacceptable, he said.

He said the suggestion of ceremonies of remembrance for victims of violence to which



Trimble: Asked to accept Sinn Fein in government

political, government and church representatives would be invited "beggars belief". He said: "It clearly indicates how far the two governments are out of touch with the realities of Northern Ireland."

A second indication of opposition came from the Lagan Valley MP. Jeffrey Donaldson. who said the document was full of imprecise language. "I think we will have to look at this in a son, described the document as lot more detail before coming

The Northern Ireland Sec-retary, Mo Mowlam, urged all sides to support the document. saying: "I think we have come into an executive on such a a long, long way. This week we made a lot of progress; the parties worked very hard. I think if they continue that collective responsibility we will continue to make progress. I now think it is time to move on, the road is clear and we should

move down it.' Paying tribute to Sinn Fein, she said no one had worked harder during the week than the team led by Gerry Adams. "I believe their commitment to making peace is very strong, but to find the road to go down is one we have to work at together."

On the first anniversary of the signing of the Good Friday Agreement, a peace march was held between St Peter's Catholic Cathedral near the Falls Road in Belfast and St Anne's Church of Ireland Cathedral in the city centre. The event was designed as a show of unity by Catholics and Protestants.

One of the organisers, Father

Francis O'Brien, said he hoped it would demonstrate that despite the difficulties that remain between the political parties, there was a strong desire for peace. "The impression that people have, looking into Northern Ireland, is nothing but tension and conflict. We would like to present a slightly different picture - that people from different traditions are willing to, and do, come together to pray, work and worship."



Northern Ireland Secretary Mo Mowlam starting the cars yesterday in the Circuit of Ireland rally in Bangor, Co Mayo

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Straw pushes for new limit on jury trials

THE HOME Secretary has de- By Paul Waugh cided to push ahead with plans to restrict defendants' right to a trial by jury.

The Government will introduce legislation later this year in an attempt to speed justice and cut costs by using magistrates' courts rather than crown courts for some cases, The Independent has learnt.

In a separate but related move, Jack Straw has also made clear he is determined to abolish jury trials for complex and expensive fraud cases, such as the Guinness and Maxwell affairs. He is now understood to be convinced the right to opt for a jury trial should be removed for certain types of "middle ranking" offences, such as theft and grievous bodily harm.

Defendants in magistrates' courts frequently choose a jury trial in a crown court because they believe they have a better chance of acquittal, but many change their plea to guilty at the eleventh hour. More than 21,000 people opt for a jury trial every year, but with a contested crown court case costing an average of £13,500 compared with the £2,500 cost of a magistrates' hearing. Mr Straw is determined to press on with reform.

He has yet to decide which of four options set out in a consultation paper last year would be included in a Bill. Among the alternatives are removing some offences from the list of those triable either way; allowing magistrates to deternot agree; or removing the right to trial by jury from de- a judge and two lay experts.

Political Correspondent

fendants previously convicted of a similar offence. "The status quo is not an option. We are aiming and hoping for legislation this parliament," said a senior Home Office source.

Due to a lack of parliamentary time, a Bill outlining the changes is unlikely to be brought forward before the Queen's Speech at the end of the year. However, the Bill will certainly be on the statute book before the next general election.

When the proposals were first publicised last September, an alliance of civil liberties groups and lawvers attacked them as "ill considered". The Bar, the Law Society, Liberty, backbench Labour MPs and the Access to Justice pressure group warned the measures would undermine a funda-

mental tenet of British justice. Michael Howard, the former home secretary, shelved plans for reform after they provoked widespread opposition among the legal profession.

Moves to abolish jury trials for complex fraud cases are also now being "actively considered" by the Home Office. Fraud cases make up 1 per cent of trials, but account for 40 per cent of the costs.

Pressure for reform increased after Kevin and Ian Maxwell were acquitted in 1996 of conspiracy to defraud the Mirror Group pensioners, a case that cost taxpayers £20m. mine the venue in all cases or Among the options being conthose where the parties could sidered are replacing juries with either a panel of judges or

IN BRIEF

Gardener unearths foetuses

A MAN has unearthed two human foetuses, preserved in glass bottles, while digging his garden in Whitehead, Co Antrim. Pathologists were called in and the remains taken away for examination, but police did not suspect a crime and said that the foetuses were medical specimens.

Boy dies in canal accident

JOHN HARDMAN, 10, drowned in a canal in Bolton, Greater Manchester, while playing with his brother Adam, 13, and a friend. Adam dived in to save him but began struggling himself. He was was pulled to safety but attempts to resuscitate John failed.

Man charged with robbing elderly

DETECTIVES INVESTIGATING hit and run robberies on elderly women by a driver charged a man yesterday. Anthony Francis Mills, 43, from Liverpool, is in police custody and will appear before Liverpool City Magistrates today to face two charges of robbery and two of theft.

Family survives fall from balcony

A COUPLE and their baby son escaped with cuts and bruises yesterday after a balcony they were standing on collapsed. The family fell 15 feet when the wooden balcony gave way during a visit to relatives at a house in

Racists;

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IDEPENDENT

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Gentlemanly art of house portraiture

ON A recent Saturday afternoon, the doorbell rang. The usual look of mild apprehension crossed the faces of our household. In London, middle-class London at any rate, friends do not arrive without prior arrangement. These days the sound of an unexpected knock is like the sight of a telegram boy on the doorstep in 1916 (well, not quite, but heading in that general direction; the certain thing is, that will not be your auntie come unexpectedly with home-

baked scones from Kirkcaldy). Who could it be? Mormons? The young gang who sell dishcloths? The Witnesses of Jehovah? Someone in motorbike leathers with the wrong address for a pizza delivery? Outside in the street, quite some distance from the door, stood a tall dark man who said: "I'd like to paint your

I was confused for a second. Our window-frames are certainly peeling; the gloss on the door is chipped; the stucco needs a few fresh coats. But nothing about this man suggested he was a house-painter. He stood there in a Prince-of-Wales check suit and a silk waistcoat like a Daks advert from Country Life magazine. He was what we used to call "well-spoken". The effect was a cliché of respectability, and gentlemanliness of a kind that a few weeks with a finished picdied with the acting of Richard

He produced a card and then opened a portfolio and displayed some sheets of cartridge paper. A few pretty watercolours of houses, nicely sketched; he was a house-painter, I now saw, in the sense that he painted pictures of houses.

But why our house? He said because it was interesting and attractive, of an age and style that he enjoyed painting.

NOTEBOOK



IAN JACK

Now I like our house. It is perfectly fine. One in a long street of similar houses. Red brick at the front, cheaper yellow London stock at the back. Bay windows to the ground and first floors. Built 1890. The towns and cities of England have terraces and terraces of them, marching off the main roads of middle-ranking Victorian suburbs and once occupied by the families of foremen and senior clerks, handily placed for the tram. I imagine that plans for them could once be bought off-theshelf by speculative builders. But "interesting" would not be a word I would use.

"You can't really think this house is interesting," I said. "Oh yes", he said "very interesting and very attractive. I'd love to paint it."

His pitch was this. He would take some snaps and return in ture. If I did not like it, no money need change hands. If I did like it, the price would be £100 plus VAT

That seemed a fair propo-

sition and we shook hands, mainly because he seemed the kind of man with whom one shook hands, but after he had gone I began to worry that I had become, or was about to become, the victim of a scam. He had my name, address and telephone number I imagined

an empty house in the Easter holidays, a telephone ringing and ringing to ascertain our absence, a jemmy at midnight working a rear window loose.

All paranoia. He turned up at the door again last week, again in his check suit and silk waistcoat, with a watercolour of our house, lighter and pinker than in reality but true enough to its form, and pretty. Of course, I paid. Picture apart, it was worth it just to hear a little of his remarkable story.

His name is Peter Michael and he earns his living by walking the streets of London and knocking on doors and subsequently knocking out paintings of houses. He is, so far as he knows, the only practitioner of this craft in Britain; but he has definitely hit on something. The British love property ("an Englishman's home is..." and so on). Compared with Europeans, they live in an eclectic mixture of architectural styles, each with its devotees. Why would they not want a picture of what they lavish so much money on, and of what, however humdrum, they can be so intensely proud?

By divining this truth about the owner-occupier, Michael has made a career and reinvented a tradition that belongs to the era of Gainsborough and Lord and Lady X sitting proudly before their country seat. The money is good. On an average afternoon of walking and knocking, Michael said, he could collect 15 commissions that might, working hard with pencil and brush, take him a week

to fulfil We arranged to meet for a drink on Thursday. This time he left his Prince of Wales check behind and turned up in a smock. The suit, he explained, was to reassure customers, although the smock also seemed to belong to another



Artist Peter Michael bolding one of his paintings representing houses

era - of the gentleman-artist and it was no surprise to hear him say that he was looking forward to "a pint of ale". (As he is only 34. I guess he must be a strand of post-modernism, the human equivalent of a building by Quinlan Terry).

Ale purchased, he told me a few facts about his life. Born in Singapore, boarding school in Co Wicklow, architectural training at Thames Polytechnic and Aberdeen. Failing his final degree ("too arrogant" according to a note on his papers, although it is hard to believe that architects see arrogance as a fault), he devoted himself to the part of his training he most enjoyed: the study and depiction of old buildings. In 1991, he began to knock

on doors in Edinburgh, then in Glasgow and eventually as far west as Greenock. The Scots, he said, were still his favourite customers - they had a special interest in the visual - and he was always happy to find them (for example, me) in London.

How many houses had he say - "art" equalling rarity - but estimated that it might be 3,000 to 4,000. People were surprisingly generous, he said. The ratio of doors knocked on to pictures commissioned was roughly two to one. There were some good areas - Clapham, Islington - and some bad. Hamostead was the worst: "Lovely houses and lots of money, but the people there tend to be mean and suspicious."

was a pretty brave enterprise. Who would want to knock doors for a living, to risk so much rejection? It needs a peculiar combination of humility and resolve. Michael, on the other hand, said it did not bother him. He knew the ropes. Do painted? He was reluctant to it on a Saturday afternoon when people are not so busy, and stand a long and unthreatening distance from their door. And he had learnt to spot the likeliest houses. "My perfect clients," he said, "have just moved with their three children to a moderately attractive ter-

It seemed to me that this

cars parked outside." Thanks to this work, Michael himself has just ac-

race house with some nice bits

of stucco, and have two new

quired an old Bentley convert-He asked me to stress that ible, but I do not mean to make him sound either greedy or cynical I believed him when he said he loved houses and spoke of the thrill he got when his clients looked at a picture of where they lived and realised (or were persuaded to believe) that it was prettier and more interesting than they had imagined. Portrait painters do the same, and, as with a portrait He may be knocking on painter. Peter Michael will sub-

H PEP PEP PEP PEP

for example, the dustbins are "Why no dustbins?" I asked. "Clients tend not to like them," he said. "though I can

put them in if you'd like me to."

tract or modify features he

In the picture of our house,

suspects might offend.

he was an "artist" not an illustrator; he has exhibited in reputable galleries in Edinburgh and Glasgow. Personally, I think the difference in this case is complete guff, although I can see its usefulness as a selling proposition - "art" equalling (as well as rarity) something nice to hang on the

Michael Grieve

your door soon. The streets of Crouch End are the next to be trudged and after that, who knows, onwards and upwards to the provinces. He is also listed in the book, an 0181 number in Clapham. I should warn you, however, that, like those of the houses he paints, his prices are rising.

Frenzy to buy PEPs and Tessas could be 'unwise'

BANKS, BUILDING societies BY ANDREW VERITY and record shops will be open this Bank Holiday weekend to deal with the rush of lastminute customers hoping to beat the deadline of midnight on Monday for buying the taxadvantageous savings products, Tessas and PEPs.

But City analysts are warning savers not to make any rash decisions, as the replacement product, the individual saving account (ISA) may offer as good a deal.

Halifax is to open 100 branches, while Nationwide is opening 16 of its bigger branches to process applications. Virgin Direct is offering a free courier service for customers up to 8pm on Sunday, and forms can also be obtained at a number of Virgin Megastores. Gart-

more, the investment arm of open until midnight to handle PEP applications, while Fidelity, the US investment giant. is arranging pick-up points for PEPs around the country.

Save & Prosper is keeping its main administration centre in Romford open until midnight on Easter Monday to cope with the "massive" number of ap-Such has been the demand

for the personal equity plans that some City observers are worried that the extra money flooding in to the stock market will push up share prices artificially.

Over the past week, as PEP money flooded in at four times index jumped by 5.2 per cent.

The last-minute rush has NatWest, is keeping its offices been prompted by fears that the Government's plans for ISAs end of PEPs and Tessas (taxexempt special savings account) would spell the loss of valuable tax incentives to save. The products together have attracted over £100bn of savings since their launch in 1991. But the ISA, coming on-stream on Tuesday, will offer tax breaks that are at least as generous. Investment advisers are worried that savers are opening PEPs and Tessas because of these

> in their best interests to do so. Geoff Kangley, of the Sheffield-based firm Kangley & Co, said: "The customers are almost taking out PEPs against my advice. The market is too

the normal rate, the FTSE 100 high right now to invest in equities. I think it's because there is a lot of scepticism about the and whether they will work. It's almost as if they're doing to

spite the government. Roddy Kohn, of advisers Kohn Cougar, said: "The concern is that many of the buyers are hasic-rate taxpayers who are being told to take out a PEP because if they don't they'll have missed their last chance.

"But ISAs have a better spread of investments than PEPs ~ you can invest anyfears, rather than because it is where in the world. And the taxfree limit for ISAs is £7,000 against £6,000 for PEPs.

"There is no reason for a lastminute rush, and too many customers are making rash decisions.

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Racists in new hate campaign

Home Affairs Correspondent

THE METROPOLITAN Police Commissioner, Sir Paul Condon, and other senior figures at Scotland Yard have been bombarded with mail from white racists since the publication in February of the Stephen Lawrence report

Racist groups have directed threatening and abusive etters, pamphlets and cartoons to high-ranking officers, race equality groups and black and Asian organisations after Sir William Macpherson of Cluny's inquiry into the death of the black architecture student.

specialist unit of four analysts, which is working alongside the Forensic Science Service to those responsible.

Operation Athena team, which not killed by a white gang but is tackling racial crime, are committed suicide. investigating the activities of a group calling itself "White in connection with the White within the pages of a magazine



followed Lawrence case

Scotland Yard has set up a Lightning" which has been sending hate mail to police and to black groups based in southeast London, close to where analyse the material and trace Stephen was murdered aged 18 in a racist attack in 1993. The Detectives from the Yard's material suggests that he was

One man has been arrested of crime". It should be kept

ther arrests are expected. The Yard unit, which reports to Deputy Assistant Commissioner John Grieve, head of the Met's Racial and Violent Crimes Task Force, has been given the go-ahead to use scientific techniques normally reserved for murder investi-

Lightning campaign and fur-

crime. Detective Sergeant David Field, a member of the new unit, has asked people who have received the hate mail not to screw it up but to preserve the material and pass it to the

aimed at tackling organised

Det Sgt Field said that while abuse into their own home."

some people chose to ignore such literature, others were "Race-hate mail takes the Recipients of such corre-

treat the material as a "scene

of race-hate mail were individuals, although they sometimes purported to represent larger groups. "They tend to be cranks who write about their own bitterness and their own mixed-up thoughts," he said. However, some of the material gations and for operations is clearly part of a campaign. and is termed a "linked series" by the analysts.

and given to police for testing.

He said many of the authors

The Met officers are working closely with new racial crime units in the Merseyside, Greater Manchester and South Wales forces to identify the people behind national racehate mail campaigns.

The Commission for Racial Equality has also been receiving an increase amount of "shaken to the core". He said: racist mail since publication of the Lawrence inquiry and has compiled a dossier on the material.

spondence are being urged to The Met is using the intelligence gained by its team of analysts to build up a London-wide database on racists.

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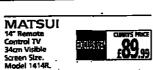
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Designer gardeners dig for Britain

By KATE WATSON-SMYTH AND DARIUS SANAI

GARDENING CENTRES are hoping for record numbers of customers this weekend as a new generation of gardeners turns to digging and weeding as a form of recreation.

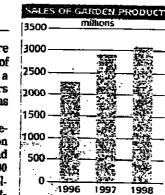
Thousands of thirtysomethings are shunning the pub on Bank Holiday weekends and going instead to Britain's 2,500 garden centres to fill their trolleys with shrubs, plants and potting compost.

The numbers of gardening magazines and television programmes are fast overtaking cooking and interior decorating as the latest consumer passion. Last year, Britons spent £3bn on their gardens compared with £2.3bn two years ago.

There's a new interest in gardening from the young, professional urban classes, people who would have thought of gardening as totally unfashionable 10 years ago," said Tim Richardson, the editor of New Eden, a gardening monthly to be launched on 15 April

His findings were certainly borne out by the hordes of young couples at the Alexandra Palace Garden Centre in north London yesterday. Simon Eade, the manager, said the good weather was making people think about their gardens. We are busy now and Monday will be mad," he said.

A three-acre garden centre could regularly take more than £20,000. "Centres of this size can make at least £2m a year and some will make up to £3.5m,"



bought his first house with a garden, and was busy hunting for trellis and plants. "I don't come that often - well, I was here last week - I'm getting quite into gardening," he said.

Beric Livingstone and Simon Ash had come to completely kit out their garden. "We may well spend more than £300, there's so much here," said Mr Livingstone.

Ariane Gentil had come for a look around with her partner, Remi Adewusi, a recent convert. "It is wonderful to plant something and watch it grow and it becomes addictive," he said. Ms Gentil said she had subconsciously started to budget for plants out of her monthly income. "I say that I won't spend more than £30 a month, but sometimes I will just blow £100 in one go and then try not to come back again for a few weeks," she said.

Twenty minutes later the couple were staggering out to can expect at least 1,000 cus- their car under the weight of tomers on a sunny day, and it several pots and at least one small tree.

Everyone admitted to watching gardening programmes avidly, particularly Ground Force, with Alan Titchmarsh Adge Gittins, 30, has just and the famously bra-less

Charlie Dimmock. But times have changed. Ten years ago, Ms Dimmock would have been the main interest; now it is Mr Titchmarsh. and even he plays second fiddle to the plants.

There are now up to six gardening programmes a week, and magazines such as the functional BBC Gardeners' World are flourishing.

The national obsession with producing flowers and plants is reflected in the latest figures from Bookwatch, which lists the highest-selling living author. for both fiction and non-fiction, as Dr D G Hessayon. Dr Hessayon's The Garden Expert and The House Plant Expert have sold more than 17 million copies between them, outstripping the collected works of John Grisham, Danielle Steel and even Delia Smith

"You don't just have to stick a lawn down and surround it with roses, you can stylise and personalise it." says Tony Sutton, manager of Alliston's nursery on the King's Road in Chelsea. "A much more contemporary look is in, people are becoming more theatrical."



Eager gardeners searching for botanical style yesterday at the Alexandra Palace Garden Centre in north London

Too-pure heroin kills 10 people

A BATCH of exceptionally pure By JASON BENNETTO heroin is thought to have killed 10 people in one city in the past

two months. The two latest overdose victims were found in Bristol on Thursday night. The police are users are at threat from the heroin, which is 50 to 60 per cent

more oure than normal. Since February nine men and one woman, all aged from their late twenties to early thirties, have been found dead in and around the city centre. Victims have been found in public toilets, night shelters

and a car park. One of the latest victims was a man in his twenties who was found slumped in a shopping centre toilet on Thursday. He was taken to hospital but died later. Bristol was identified in a recent Home Office-fundCrime Correspondent

ed study as one of the cities experiencing a new influx of

The drug is believed to have concerned that other drug come from major traffickers based in Liverpool and Manchester, who supply local Bristol dealers. Heroin "wraps." which provide a hit, cost from

£7 to £10 in the city. In what is believed to be an unrelated case, four people have died in Manchester in the past two weeks, apparently after overdosing on a pure form of

One explanation for the high purity levels is that the drug has gone on sale without dealers having time to mix or "cut" it with other non-toxic substances. The 10 people to have died in Bristol all injected the drug.

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Brown leads Labour bid in Scots poll

THE CHANCELLOR has become a dominant force in Labour's bid for control of the Scottish Parliament, in effect leading the campaign for the elections on 6 May.

Unlike Tony Blair, who, although born and educated in Scotland is considered very English, Mr Brown is widely liked by his country folk. He represents Dunfermline East and has made Labour north of the border very much his own fiefdom. Donald Dewar, Scottish Secretary and would-be leader of the parliament, has won respect but little ground against the Scottish National Party.

The Chancellor has a personal interest in ensuring Labour wins since, if the SNP gets enough seats to take Scotland down the road to independence, his long-term hopes of succeeding Tony Blair at 10 Downing Street will be dashed.

Delta House, Labour's new Glasgow headquarters, has largely been restaffed by "Brownies" under the general secretary Alex Rowley, former leader of the Chancellor's naScotland Correspondent

tive county of Fife. Beavering away there this weekend was Douglas Alexander, Mr Brown's aide and speechwriter, whose loyalty was rewarded when he got the Paisley South seat ahead of a Blairite candidate.

Fife has seen a lot more of its favourite son. He has been photographed visiting businesses in the "wee kingdom", kicking a ball around at Raith Rovers and meeting Hector Chawla, the doctor who saved his right eye after a rugby accident at Kirkcaldy High School. The rumour is Mr Brown will be in his home town in July to marry Sarah

His Budget tax cuts were seen in Scotland as election giveaways for modest-income working families - once loyal to Labour but toying with the leftish SNP - and scarcely a day goes by without the promise of more goodies, from mobile phones for health workers to laptops for teachers and extra

Macaulay, a PR executive.

working in his, and Labour's, favour. Two polls yesterday give Labour some 40 per cent of the vote in the first ballot and just under that in the second, proportional, one. Those figures would give Labour about 60 seats in the 129-member Parliament, compared with 39 for the SNP 18 for the Liberal Democrats and 12 for the Tories.

While on the face of it that represents a reopening of Labour's lead on the SNP, the figures are too close for comfort and Mr Brown has been briefing reporters from London on the SNP's extra taxes for Scots. Party strategists can see the advantages of allowing Mr Dewar to bathe in the limelight of the Chancellor's efforts while keeping clear of bruising encounters with the SNP.

The coming week will see the campaign for Scotland's first legislature in 300 years under way in earnest, with the parties holding glitzy launches and starting daily



Andrew Terrill carrying the Cross in the Good Friday Crucifixion procession across London from the Methodist Central Hall to Westminster Abbey

Tom Pilston

£200 supper may land Twigg in soup

STEPHEN TWIGG, who won Enfield Southgate for labour from Michael Portillo, could be in danger of following Fiona Jones in the Newark election expenses flasco. Mr Twigg appears to have started his re-election campaign in Southgate already, and runs the risk of making himself liable to incurring election expenses during the next two to three years.

On mysterious notepaper headed: "ST2M" Mr Twigg this week wrote begging letters inviting attendance at "a very special evening - the launch of a fund to help my reelection as the Member of Parliament for Enfield Southgate". Mr Twigg is to hold a reception and dinner on 19 May at the prestigious West Lodge Park Hotel in his constituency where "we shall be joined by the architect of New Labour, the Rt Hon

Peter Mandelson MP". Uninhibited by the recent rows over blind trusts, Mr Twigg has set up "the ST2M trust fund through which I hope to secure sufficient resources to open a constituency office at the earliest opportunity". The letter continues: "If you cannot join us on 19 May please consider making a donation to 'ST2M'." But why are donors straight to the Southgate

Labour Party coffers? Sources at Conservative Central Office claim that, under election law, the clock begins ticking for election expenses the moment an MP or candidate declares they are campaigning for re-election. The cost of Mr Twigg's dinner and subsequent political activities should, according to my Tory mole, be included in his next election expenses return with the consequent risk that he will have exceeded the legal limit before the election is even called.

There is no such thing as a free lunch but the ticket prices of political dinners can fluctuate widely, indicating the relative power, popularity or influence of the guest of honour. The cheapest, at £50 a ticket, is the Conservative London Region Dinner (including wine) with William riott Hotel. Grosvenor Harvey continue to maintain Square: £125 buys dinner with Baroness Thatcher on 20 April to celebrate the 20th anniversary of her election as overhear the respective Prime Minister. But £200 a hushed whispers of endless plate is the price Stephen streams of former Liberal Twigg is charging for his champagne reception and Hartlepool The price of New Labour can never be too high.

JAMES ARBUTHNOT, the Conservative Chief Whip, broke parliamentary convention last week by moving the writ for the Newark byelection. Making his first speech in the Commons since the general election, Mr Ar- clever wheeze of buying buthnot triggered a debate that resulted in the Government successfully voting

down his application. that the party currently holding a seat applies to move the writ to set in train the byelection. During Harold Wilhis government frequently avoided by-election trouble by ing RAF VC10s.



THE WEEK IN WESTMINSTER

MICHAEL BROWN

leaving a vacancy unfilled for anything up to a year. A subsequent gentlemen's agree-ment was established that a by-election should be held within three months of a vacancy and only the party that previously held the seat should move the writ.

The Newark vacancy was declared by the High Court with effect from 19 March so Labour is perfectly within the convention provided the election is held by mid-June.

No one could fathom Mr not asked to pay the dosh Arbuthnot's motives since he did not have the votes in the division lobby to enforce his motion. He played a dangerous game, however, for the Tories in the future. Should a Conservative-held seat fall vacant. Labour will now be tempted to pull the same trick and move the writ to suit its own purposes. What is more, it has the majority to carry the motion. Parliamentary conventions are best maintained or breaches can return with a vengeance.

> LIBERAL DEMOCRAT leadership contenders, who are not supposed to be campaigning for a vacancy that is not yet supposed to exist, are having difficulty in covering their tracks as their offices are mostly situated on the sixth floor of the office block at 7 Millbank where the walls are exceptionally thin.

outwardly friendly relationships, their aides' ears are pressed to the wall, trying to Democrat press officers who are suddenly filing into each dinner with the MP for other's offices. Paddy Ashdown's injunction that there should be no campaigning for the leadership is being honoured rather more in the breach than the observance.

> WITH RECENT press rows over the high-life comforts of ministers when flying abroad, Downing Street has hit on the peace with journalists.

When the Prime Minister visits Chicago and Washington for the Nato summit later In the past it has been a this month, lobby correspon-well-established principle dents, broadcasters and photographers will travel Club Class in the Prime Minister's aircraft — at a cost of £3,500 to their editors. In the son's time as Prime Minister, past the press have been confined to the back of age-

inside THE INDEPENDENT magazine



China girks Going to the ends of the earth - to get a baby

Treasured island An affectionate insight into the British way of life

Back to cool Fabrics that help you breathe more easily





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250 book prizes and still counting

THERE IS about to be a new BY DAVID LISTER literary prize. That fact alone will guarantee the £30,000 Samuel Johnson Prize for Non-Fiction a place in a key literary

It will be fisted and described in the Book Trust Guide to Literary Prizes. There are now so many book prizes -250 at the last count and rising - that there has to be a book to help the uninitiated to find their way around them.

The initiated, of course, know all about them. Properly plugged in and with the right connections, a bibliophile who manages to attend most of the prize ceremonies should not have to cook dinner for most of the year.

And for authors, and increasingly judges, there are for the Samuel Johnson award weekly opportunities for fame. A headline-grabbing judge is now almost vital for a prize to rise above the pack. Among the judges for the Samuel Johnson Prize will be Cherie Booth, wife of the Prime Minister and a notable barrister, though not as yet an authority on English

Arts News Editor

The Samuel Johnson Prize has been set up by an anonymous patron. This must certainly be an indication of their familiarity with the writings of Samuel Johnson, who described a patron as "commonly a wretch who supports with insolence, and is paid with

flattery". The creation of the Samuel Johnson Prize tells us something else about book prizes. It replaces the NCR award for non-fiction - a prize that came into disrepute after its panel of television celebrity judges admitted they had only read summaries of the books on the shortlist. A conscientious judge will have to work their way through a year's worth of non-fiction books in about six

Book prizes can be confusing for judges, authors and much." even the prize-givers. Beryl Bainbridge – who won the £10,000 WH Smith award

MOST PROLIFIC WINNER

Claudia Roden: "The Book of Jewish

Glenfiddich Food and Drink Awards; Guild of Food Writers Awards: Jewish Quarterly Literary Prizes: André Simon Memorial

kitchen and latke takeaways to the high street" - Stanley Price. The Times

> for the company also runs an alternative prize: "The Thump-

fragments"

prize-money of a literary award winner?

MOST EMBARRASSED WINNER

The Literary Review Award for Bad Sex

"This is so wonderful I feel I might.

disintegrate, I might break into a million

good read is far too predictable a criterion for many of the book prizes currently on offer. What about those dedicated people who compile the indexes? Fear not, they are rewarded with the annual Wheatley Medal for "an

Children"

of Bookers

for the index to Rheumatology, Second Edition.

WINNER OF WINNERS

Salman Rushdie: "Midnight's

"...one of the very best of our post-

postwar novels, a capacious, amazingly

inventive work that opened fiction out to

new forms of narrative, new sounds and

voices ... a masterwork of its generation"

- Malcolm Bradbury, judge of the Booker

Mountaineers must feel gratuitously excluded from the annual literary shindigs as they have their own prize: the £2,000 Boardman Tasker Award for an "outstanding contribution to mountain literature".

indexes will know, is Jan Ross administration by making rules that limit the number of entrants. The Teixiera-Gomez work written by a Portuguese

There are other furtive ways to win a literary prize. If you Then there are prizes that don't feel you are going to

set a page of your novel in Lancashire and it is then eligible for the £2,500 Portico Prize is awarded to the best Prize, awarded to a book "set translation of a Portuguese wholly or partly in the Northwest of England". national - but entries must Even that seems generously

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Diagram Group prize in the Bookseller

champagne. Previous entrants include:

magazine awards winning a bottle of

"The Joy Of Sex: Pocket Edition"

"Developments in Dairy Cow

have been published in the UK. wide ranging, however, compared with the £5.000 Lichfield Prize, awarded to an unpublished work "set in the Lichfield





Sebastian Faulks: "Charlotte Gray"

in Fiction *Her ears were filled with the sound of a soft but frantic gasping and it was some time before she identified it as her own

Fund Awards. Roden... brings gefilte fish to the gentile

Booker and the Whitbread -

says rather disconcertingly: "I'm not sure that literary ing Good Read." A WH Smith spokesman said prizes help literacy. I think that

the winner of this £5,000 award in Dickens' time, 10 per cent of people read books. I don't think had to be "an accessible and page-turning good read". Quite actually that it's gone up very how Beryl Bainbridge's latest WH Smith itself doesn't offering Master Georgie, differs seem to be convinced that its from this description is un-£10,000 WH Smith award annual award winner is neces-clear. And why is a thumping outstanding index". The curafter missing out on both the sarily the best read of the year, good read worth just half the rent holder, as students of cunningly cut down the cost of get the Booker or Whitbread,

As it happens, a thumping

As for the judges - well, they

And, in 1994, a world-class spell of committee-busting by the Scots journalist Alan Tayfor saw him rapidly pushing his Rushdie. favoured candidate - James

Kelman - from a straggling third place into the winners' enclosure. That year's wrongly tipped Beryl Bainbridge's footed chairman, Professor funders is that a successful streetwise modern novel that best kind of novel in fact.

The Independent's radio critic). had just won his prize. Listening to Bayley, the writer sitting next to me grumbled his dissent. His name? Salman

We shall know soon enough what this year's Booker barneys have in store. The lesson for all prize-givers and prize-John Bayley, riposted with an award calls for a dusting of

Literary award with more twists than a good novel

MONEY CAN'T buy you love. BY BOYD TONKIN Sometimes, in the confusing world of the literary prize, a lorry-load of cash can't buy you any attention either. In France, the revered Prix Goncourt each night follows day, that token ofsales that can often reach seven figures, and a lifetime of

guaranteed esteem. Now consider the Interna-

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alongside. It helps you absorb the words

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ALL THE WAYS TO LEARN

you started to speak as a child.

put too much emphasis on pure reading and writing. The common complaint is "I can read a bit of French – but I can't speak it."

greatly with school progress.

Literary Editor

tional IMPAC/Dublin Literary Award. The which? Precisely. Launched in 1996, sponsored by year awards 50 francs (about a US management consultanthe IMPAC gives a cool fering will bring in its wake IR£100,000 (£87,400) to an English-language novel or an English translation. It has just announced a formidable shortlist for 1999, which features Don

hard Schlink's The Reader. Yet the heavy weight of

IMPAC funding has failed to consciousness - although it has one of the finest specialist £5) to the winning novelist. As cy and organised from Dublin, PR firms in London on the case. Something diffuse and muffled the message.

To bring the greatest benefits to authors (and to spon-

clarity focus and controversy. The Booker Prize for fiction, now in its 31st year, has seldom make much of a dent on public lacked contention, even though newer awards have overtaken its £20,000 value.

As one of the judges this year, I discovered that the anhard-to-grasp about its brief, its qual Booker buzz begins time-scale and its purpose has around the time of the first cuckoo. No sooner had the panel met for a preliminary meeting than details of their

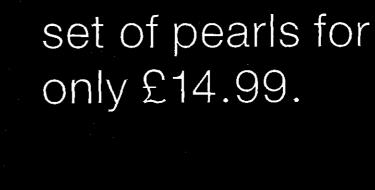
DeLillo, Ian McEwan and Bern-sors), a literary award needs lunchtime drinking habits mysteriously turned up on a tabloid paper's gossip page. It's all good murky fun, designed to keep the Booker in the public eye and to stop its rivals snatching its undoubted role as market-leader.

Martyn Goff, the genial and sure-footed sultan of spin who masterminds the Booker every year, could give lessons in Mandelson. Sir Michael Caine,

the former Booker plc chairman who died last month, also worked tirelessly to keep the prize at the top of its class.

can be relied on to behave erratically enough. Last year, the novelist Penelope Fitzgerald managed to scupper the widechances, and so ensure that lan McEwan won, (Fitzgerald was after-dinner speech that spice as well as solidity; for grit media massaging to Peter rooting for Magnus Mills, bus- trashed exactly the sort of as well as gravitas. Just like the driver turned novelist and now

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Australian TV news reported "Astonishing

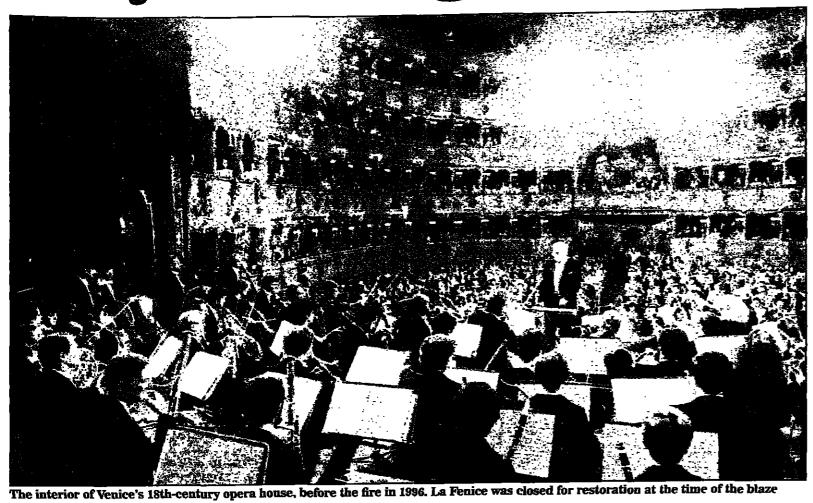
fluency." "They did two years work in three

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FLUENCY COMES QUICKLY

Mayor charged over La Fenice fire



JUDGE in Venice has ordered 10 people to stand trial in connection with a fire that destroyed the city's worldrenowned opera house. Two electricians, rewiring La Fenice at the time of the blaze, face charges of arson. The others - who include the city mayor, Massimo Cacciari, the former superintendent of the Opera Gianfranco Pontel and other administrators - face charges of negligence. The trial is due to begin on 31 May.

After a lengthy investigation, Venice prosecutors concluded that the fire that enveloped the 18th-century theatre was started deliberately by the two electricians. Enrico Carrella and Massimiliano Marchetti are accused of torching one of the world's most famous opera houses to avoid hefty fines for being behind schedule on restoration work. Both men, who work for a small company in financial difficulties, deny the allegations.

Massimo Cacciari, a leftwing philosopher who as mayor chairs the board of La Fenice, said: "I am deeply saddened that my citizens might think that I am to blame or have been negligent towards our theatre."



The devastated La Fenice may not reopen for years

According to the investigating magistrate, Felice Casson, who had initially asked that even tougher charges be pressed: "Fire alarms had been disactivated and highly inflammable materials were stored in a haphazard manner in different parts of the theatre." Thus Mr Cacciari and technicians at La Fenice were responsible for the speed with which the fire took hold

and the delay in putting it out. On the night of 29 January 1996, La Fenice had been closed for work to bring it up to European safety standards. The fact that the surrounding canals had been drained hampered the firefighters.

The charges are particularly alling for Mr Cacciari, who in 1993 started a comprehensive cleaning programme for the city's canals. In a statement presented to the court, he stressed that the work at La Fenice had been urgent and the canal cleaning was to ensure that once the theatre reopened, "emergency and security services, above all the fire brigade [would be able to] access it easily".

The destruction of La Fenice, famed for its eacoustics and considered an artistic gem. stunned the world of opera and lovers of Venice. Millions of pounds were raised and stars third bidder, who argues that a such as Luciano Pavarotti and new tender should be held.

port. Charities including the British Venice in Peril and the United States-based Save Venice Inc were sent donations.

Its name may mean phoenix but it is going to take a long time to rise from the ashes. Contractual disputes and now the trial mean that it could be years before La Fenice reopens.At the time of the blaze, Mr Cacciari swore that the theatre would be rebuilt "where it was and as it was". When the theatre was gutted in 1836, it took just two years to recreate it. But this time

it will take at least double that. The reopening was set for 29 December 1999, but a series of legal battles and bureaucratic hitches means it now will not be ready until Easter 2001. The task was begun in May 1997 after the Italian building company Impregilo, tied to Fiat, won the tender. An internationally renowned architect, Gae Aulen-

ti, was in charge of the project. However, in February 1998, a court upheld an appeal by a German-Italian consortium, which argued that Impregilo had neglected to say whether its tender included apartments used as theatre offices. As runner-up, the consortium took over the contract and is expected to start later this month: But a legal challenge from the Woody Allen offered their sup- risks causing further delays.

[kraine

dir crash kills 17

Russian

troops

Israeli Arabs could oust Netanyahu

BY ERIC SILVER in Jerusalem

THE THREE Jewish candidates in next month's elections for Israeli prime minister are learning the hard way that wooing the Arab minority, which accounts for 12 per cent of the electorate, is a tricky business.

The right-wing Likud party's incumbent, Benjamin Netanyahu, was greeted with everything from polite scepticism to outright hostility when he visited Muslim communities celebrating Id al Adha (the Feast of the Sacrifice) early this week. In the Western Galilee town of Shefaram, he was denounced as an "enemy of peace" and roundly told he was not welcome. He completed his tour, all the same.

In 1996, Mr Netanyahu defeated Shimon Peres by less than 1 per cent of the total vote. It looks likely to be just as close this time. Every vote, however unlikely, is worth fighting for. Someone, somewhere, might take seriously his last-minute promise of equality and public funding for the Arab sector, £4m

in one year for Shefaram alone. When the Centre Party's Yitzhak Mordechai visited the Muslim stronghold of Kafr Kassem, the leader of Israel's Islamic Movement, Sheikh Abdullah Nimr Darwish, urged the former defence minister to make common cause with Labour's Ehud Barak to avoid splitting the anti-Netanyahu vote. The Arabs, he explained, would go to the polls first time but said that only 50,000 should round to vote for their own



Netanyahu: Denounced as 'an enemy of peace'

while they were at it, cast a separate ballot for prime minister). but they could not be relied on to go back two weeks later if no prime ministerial contender won the necessary 50 per cent. "We can't let Netanyahu make it to a second round," Sheikh Darwish insisted. Two opinion polls, published

parliamentary candidates (and

yesterday, gave Mr Mordechai a maximum of 17 per cent in the first round, compared with 36 per cent for Mr Netanyahu and 33 per cent for Mr Barak. In a second round, both Mr Barak and Mr Mordechai would edge out Mr Netanyahu. A 19-year-old Palestinian who

was shot in the pelvis during Muslim riots nine years ago is to receive 50,000 shekels (£8,000) from the Israeli government to buy Viagra. Doctors said the injury had impaired his sexual capability and recommended Viagra. The court awarded him 630,000 shekels, go on the anti-impotence drug.

Ban for singer 'with dog called Mohamed'

A LEBANESE pop singer ac-cused of naming a dog after the Prophet Mohamed has been barred from entering Egypt, according to a governmentrun newspaper. Police at Cairo airport denied

Najwa Karam entry on Thursday, sending her back to Beirut. Al-Messa reported. She had been booked to perform at hotels in Cairo.

Egypt became the first nation to deny entry to the popular singer since a magazine claimed that she had named her

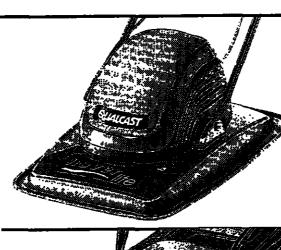
dog after the founder of Islam. Muslims consider dogs un-clean, and insulting the Prophet Mohamed blasphemous.

Ms Karam, a Christian, has denied the accusation and her lawyer has said she doesn't even own a dog. Still, the claim has prompted many radio and television stations to ban her songs. Efforts by the Lebanese embassy failed to persuade police to allow Ms Karam entry, the newspaper said.

Police gave no reason for turning back the singer. (AP)

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President Boris Yeltsin addressing the Commonwealth of Independent States meeting in the Kremlin yesterday. The CIS leaders discussed the crisis in Yugoslavia and the sacking, at Russia's behest, of CIS secretary Boris Berezovsky

Yeltsin sacks corruption investigator

rare moment of Russian unity by suspending his chief prosecutor - the same man who is investigating corruption in the Kremin's innermost circle.

There was a howl of political protest yesterday after the President signed a decree removing Yuri Skuratov, and ordered officials to seal his office and cut his Kremlin hot-line.

Mr Yeltsin justified the move which the State Duma (parliament) condemned as unconstitutional – by arguing he had the legal right temporarily to suspend Mr Skuratov pending the outcome of a criminal inquiry into his activities, launched yesterday.

Key incriminating evidence is a video, now being sold on the Moscow black market, in which the prosecutor cavorts naked with two prostitutes - seamy scenes, which the Kremlin says suggest compromising links with the underworld.

But Mr Yeltsin's opponents allege the move amounts to an attempt by the Kremlin to block the investigation into allegations that members of the President's inner circle took bribes in return for granting luin Moscow

crative building contracts to a Swiss construction company. The firm, Mabetex, denies

wrongdoing. The Communist leader, Gennady Zyuganov, said the prosecutor had documents showing that "a corrupt group" has gathered around Mr Yeltsin. He described the suspension as a "flagrant violation of the constitution" and alleged the prosecutor had a list of 20 names holding \$40bn (£25bn) in Swiss bank accounts.

By moving anew to oust the law officer, Mr Yeltsin has entered a new fight with parliament as last month its upper house rejected the President's attempts to get rid of the prosecutor. Mr Skuratov said yesterday his removal was illegal.

The Kremlin's decision to provoke new political turmoil caused astonishment in Moscow as it was enjoying a moment of relative political peace brought about by the common outrage over the Nato attacks on Yugoslavia.

There was speculation that the move was not Mr Yeltsin's

initiative but that of his powerful younger daughter and adviser, Tatyana. Reports have circulated in Moscow that the prosecutor, working jointly with Swiss authorities, was showing an interest in her activities.

Underlying the issue is a wer struggle between the Kremlin and its opponents, prasibly including the Prime Minister and potential presidential contender, Yevgeny Primakov. Among the suspected players in this affair is the industrial magnate Boris Berezovsky, once a Kremlin powerbroker whom Mr Primakov seems determined to bring down.

The magnate's activities have also been under investigation by the prosecutor's office. Investigators recently raided two businesses linked to the tycoon, saying they were examining allegations that he was linked to a spying operation gathering intelligence on the

Yesterday, at Russia's behest, Mr Berezovsky - who has denied any wrongdoing - was sacked as secretary to the Commonwealth of Independent States, the alliance of for-

Ukraine plans to bury Chernobyl

By STEVE CONNOR Science Editor

A PLAN to bury the crippled Chernobyl nuclear reactor in a hole a kilometre deep has been proposed by Ukrainian researchers. They suggest digging a hole next to the plant and letting it fall in a controlled manner before covering and scaling it with rubble and concrete.

Western experts have reacted with alarm to the idea, which is being put forward by four respected research institutes in the Ukraine with the support of figures in the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences.

Since the accident in April 1986, which sent plumes of radioactive material across Europe, Chernobyl's stricken reactor Number 4 has been encased in a concrete "sarcophagus", which has showed signs of becoming unstable.

Western nuclear engineers

brought in to advise the Ukrainian government have suggested that the sarcophagus which was built in a hurry six months after the accident should be replaced or strengthened so that it would last another 100 years, by which time much of the radioactivity inside



Instead they want Ukrainians to dig a giant grave for the sarcophagus that would be big enough to bury the 50-storey tower block at Canary Wharf electricity.

and still have room to spare. The Kryvbasproekt Institute in Ukraine is promoting the idea, which also has the support of the Ukrainian Scientific Centre for Environmental Radiochemistry, the Mining Construction Institute and the Institute of Construction

Hrodzynskyy said.

radioactive contents gradually.

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would have decayed. Air crash kills 17 Russian troops

A HELICOPTER carrying Russian troops, including a majorgeneral and two colonels, crashed yesterday on the border with Afghanistan, killing at least 17 people.

One person was believed to have survived the crash of the Mi-8 helicopter into the Pyandzh river, which forms the border between Tajikistan and Afghanistan, according to Russian press reports.

The high-ranking officers killed were not immediately identified. The cause of the crash was not known, though a number of ageing Mi-8s have crashed in recent months.

Russia has about 25,000 troops in Tajikistan to guard the border with Afghanistan against armed groups opposed to the government in the capital, Dushanbe. They are also posted there to intercept smugglers who attempt to carry drugs and weapons across the

More than 200 Russian troops in the border force have been killed since it was deployed in 1993, officials have



A Russian plan put forward two years ago to create a giant monolith by filling the entire sarcophagus with concrete was abandoned after safety assessments showed there was a hidden risk from missing nuclear fuel believed to be still inside the building.

Now some Ukrainian scientists have criticised the Western plan, believing the foreign grant of \$758m (£470m) will end up being spent on Western firms and consultants rather than Ukrainian workers.

Technologies.

Dmytro Hrodzynskyy, a member of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, says in the magazine Nuclear Engineering International that geological research in the region will assess the risk of ground-water contamination.

"The Academy of Sciences will be performing some drilling next year to study the issue. We should not forget earthquakes either ... But we have to support this idea in general; it is very promising." Mr

Emlen Sobotovych, another academician who backs the proposal, said the Western plan of strengthening the sarcophagus envisages removing the

Of the four reactors at Chernobyl only one is still working and that is due to be shut down next year when the power plant is scheduled to stop producing

IN BRIEF

Kaunda assassination attempt

THE FORMER President Kenneth Kaunda escaped assassination when gunmen fired on his car outside his home in Lusaka, the Zambian capital. Mr Kaunda, 75, was still inside his house when three gunmen opened fire and riddled the car with bullets on Thursday night as it was being parked in a suburb of Lusaka.

China confirms visit to US

CHINA ANNOUNCED yesterday that Premier Zhu Rongji would visit the United States and Canada from 6-20 April. China had earlier refused to confirm the dates of the official trip. It will be Mr Zhu's first visit to the US as premier and talks are likely to include international

Villagers die in drug dispute

strategic issues, trade and environmental issues.

AN ARMED ethnic group from Burma is thought to have killed nine villagers in northern Thailand in a dispute over drugs. Villagers in the Fang district of Chiang Mai province claimed that their neighbours were captured and killed by guerrillas from the United Wa State Army after they encountered them in the jungle.

13 to be executed for treason

A COURT in Liberia has sentenced to death 13 people for treason after a trial that followed clashes in the capital last year involving supporters of the former civil war faction leader Roosevelt Johnson. The criminal court in Monrovia acquitted one defendant. The 14 were among 32 people charged with treason.

Bankers stopped from travelling

INDONESIA HAS benned 172 executives of ailing banks from travelling abroad. The Finance Minister, Bambang Subjanto, said the ban would apply while his department checked the assets and liabilities of troubled banks. Indonesia is struggling to weather its worst economic and political crisis in decades.

Daredevil driver who ensures the oil gets through

WEEK IN THE LIFE SULISU ABUBAKAR

SULISU ABUBAKAR is a fueltanker driver in Nigeria. In a way on to the forecourt, where good month he earns 3,000 naira (£21) for doing one of the most dangerous jobs in the

Just last Wednesday Mr Abubakar, 33, who is married and has three children, experienced the real danger of his iob first-hand.

To prove it, he has two bullet holes in his cab, one just above the grille and another straight through the windscreen. There is a third dent in the tanker itself.

"The fuel shortages in Nigeria means that people will do anything to fill up their cars and motorbikes. I am constantly in danger of being hijacked, even when my 33,000litre container is empty, because bandits cannot see whether there is fuel in it," he said during a delivery to Abuja, hicle. the Nigerian capital.

other job if I could get one," he added

In Nigeria - a leading exporter of high-grade crude oil, es to send us on a delivery. which should have no problems satisfying its own fuel needs - and women by the side of the people are accustomed to road. I travel to Lagos an avspending the night in their erage of three times each cars while they queue for petrol at prices far exceeding turn to the depot. the official N20 (12p) a litre.

queue they must bribe their stressed pump attendants sell the volatile liquid amid frayed tempers and frequent fights.

The situation has been deteriorating for five years because corrupt military leaders have run down Nigeria's own refineries to allow themselves to profit from exporting crude and re-importing it as fuel. Mr Abubakar's job is to collect petrol or diesel from fuel depots and transport it to filling

"My week can start anywhere in Nigeria, even though my wife, Rikaya, and three children are in Kaduna. As a matter of fact I only see them for six or seven days a month. The rest of the time, I sleep in the cab. My two motor boys (assistants), Bello and Ahmed. sleep on the road, under the ve-

"My week might start at "I would do almost any home or at a fuel depot. All we tanker drivers queue up at the depots, typically Port Harcourt or Warri, and wait for our boss-

"We buy food from hawkers

week, overnight there and re-

"Last year the union asked



Sulisu Abubakar, a Nigerian fuel-tanker driver, with his bullet-damaged vehicle, which was ambushed by bandits

minimum N15,000 a month but them food and any spare cash. they refused.

Some of the bosses pay as little as N1,500 a month, yet a single trip, for a transporter, can yield N150,000 and their only overheads are the driver's pay and the fuel for running the tanker. It is the driver's responsibility to pay the motor boys, if he can afford to, that is," said Mr Abubakac a driver for

He only rarely manages to pay his assistants, 25-year-old Bello and 26-year-old Ahmed. whose role is to guard the big orange tanker and operate its vents and valves. But the men Once at the front of the the transporters to pay us a say Mr Abubakar always gives

Drivers live in constant fear,

Mr Abubakar said. "We work long hours as it is – some of my colleagues can drive for more than 24 hours without an ailowance or break. Even without the danger of bandits, this job amounts to working with a bomb on your back. "Last Wednesday at about

9pm, in Adamawa state, near the border with Chad, I got caught in my first ambush. You hear about these things happening but you assume it will not happen to you. I do not carry a gun because it is illegal for civilians in Nigeria to

across the road to stop the truck. I drove over them and then the shooting began. I just lay on my side, still driving, for 500 metres and prayed I would stay on the road. When I told the police about the attack

they said such events were

common and that it was not

even worth filing a report." Last month, at Onipanu fuel depot in Lagos, three days of fighting between tanker drivers and cattle herders claimed seven lives, left trucks wrecked and surrounding buildings

are lighter moments in a The clashes apparently Nigerian tanker driver's life. began when a man stole 10 such as when "you reach a

"The bandits had lain rocks litres of fuel. They increased place that has not had fuel for when the fighting became pomany days and people are waiting for you, like a king. larised along tribal lines; most "Everyone makes way for of the cattle herders were Fu-

often been deadly in Nigeria.

Last October some 500 people

died when a fireball swept

across Jesse, near Warri, in

southern Nigeria, after vil-

lagers had been scavenging for

But for Mr Abubakar there

fuel from a leaking pipeline.

lani from the north of Nigeria. the truck and the people at the fuel station look very happy. Of whereas drivers involved in course you have to be firm with the fighting were southern the crowd, because everyone The scramble for fuel has comes running and cannot wait to be served. "It is vital to open the vents

correctly before discharging the fuel, or the build-up of fumes can cause an explosion. But once all that is done, we can rest for a bit and perhaps get a free meal while people fill up their tanks and jerrycans."

Sudan charity workers killed

BY ALEX DUVAL SMITH Africa Correspondent

FOUR MEN working for the Red Cross have been executed after being held captive for six weeks by the Sudan People's

Liberation Army.
The International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva said it had been told that a Sudanese Red Crescent worker and three government officials who had accompanied a food relief team in southern Sudan had been killed while in detention.

The team, as well as two ICRC expatriates, were captured on 18 February near the town of Bentiu after they strayed into territory held by the liberation army. On 12 March the two expatriates were released.

The ICRC said in a press statement that for more than one month it had urged the army to release the men, and made a personal appeal to the movement's chairman, John Garang, when he visited Geneva on 22 March.

Unofficial estimates put the number of dead in the southern Sudanese war at about a million

Dr Garang, who is supported by, among others, the Ugandan President, Yoweri Museveni claims he is fighting for the mainly Christian south to become a secular state, free from the dictates of the capital. Khartoum.

A nine-month ceasefire negotiated through the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (Igad) - including Ethiopia, Eritrea and Uganda is due to expire on 15 April, after which talks will resume in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi.

Fighting tends to be seasonal and affected by food supply. That factor and claims of allegiances between aid agencies and factions in the war have resulted in claims that Western charities delivering food are fuelling the fighting.

SPECIAL OFFER: HALF-PRICE HOTEL BREAKS

The Independent/Independent on Sunday have joined forces with **Inter-Continental Hotels and Resorts** to offer readers a fabulous weekend promotion. Numerous hotels in the UK and Europe are participating, offering four and five-star accommodation from as little as £69.50 per double room per night inclusive of breakfast and tax.

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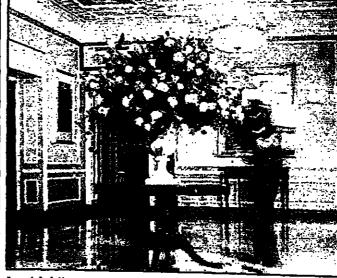
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Rate: £87.50 per double room per night. Contemporary spacious hotel, just a stroll away from Bond Street, Oxford Street and Hyde Park. Theatreland and prime tourist attractions are close by.

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EX DUVAL SMITH Corresponden:

Tokyo in cautious mood

TOKYO STOCKS closed modestly lower, with investors cautious ahead of the Bank of Japan's closely-watched "Tankan" survey of business sentiment, due for release on Monday. The benchmark Nikkei 225 average lost 37.37 points, or 0.23 per cent, to end at 16,290.19. June Nikkei futures stood 40 points higher at 16,370. Sentiment was also hit by news that the major Japanese trading house, Sumitomo, expects to post special losses of 145 billion yen (\$1.2bn) for the last financial year. Sumitomo, which like many other Japanese corporates is in the process of slimming down its business, said the losses were due partly to a reduction in its risk-bearing assets.

BRIEFING

Deputy Business & City Editor, Michael Harrison News desk: 0171-293 2636 Fax: 0171-293 2098

Brittan urges Asian trade support



THE EU Trade Commisioner Sir Leon Brittan (pictured) yesterday urged the Asian economies to support a new round of global trade talks. Speaking in Malaysia, Sir. Leon said: "I strongly believe that a comprehensive round of multilateral trade negotiations is necessary in the current economic

climate to stimulate trade

and growth and reduce the risk of protectionism." He said the support of developing countries for the next round of trade talks, expected to be launched at a World Trade Organisation ministerial meeting later this year, could help economic revial in Asia.

Volvo and Mitsubishi 'to link up'

MOTOR GIANTS Mitsubishi and Volvo declined to comment on a reports in a Japanese newspaper that they were planning to jointly develop trucks. The Sankei newspaper quoted a Mitsubishi executive as saying that Mitsubishi Motors, Japan's fourth-largest car maker, and Volvo, the world's second-largest truck maker, were considering teaming up to develop, market and sell medium-duty trucks. Volvo, which recently sold its car business to Ford for \$6.5bn, has said it is keen to expand its truck business.

STOCK MARKETS						
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FTSE 350	3003.20	0.00	0.00	3031.20	2210.40	2.58		
FTSE All-Share	2906.22	0.00	- 0.00	2931.89	2143.53	2.63		
FTSE SmallCap	2405.00	0.00	0.00	2793.80	1834,40	3.64		
FTSE Fledgling	1304.70	0.00	0.00	1517.10	1045.20	4.03		
FTSE AIM	858.50	0.00	0.00	1146.90	761.30	1.17		
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Dax	4914.59	0.00	0.00	6217.83	3833.71	1.64		
S&P 500	1293.72	0.00	0.00	1323.88	923.32	1.24		
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France CAC 40	4229.85	0.00	0.00	4404.94	2881.21	1,71		
Milan MIB30	3661 1.00	0,00	0.00	39170.00	24175.00	1.05		
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Japan	0.18	-0.49	0.25	-0.42	1.73	-0.13	2.47	0.01
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Australia (\$)	2 4167	Mexican (nuevo peso)	13.86
Austria (schillings)	19.71	Netherlands (guilders)	3.1611
Beigium (francs)	57.96·	New Zealand (\$)	2.8638
Canada (\$)	2.3379	Norway (kroner)	12.04
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8281	Portugal (escudos)	286.40
Denmark (kroner)	10.74	Saudi Arabia (rials)	5.8396
Finland (markka)	8.6024	Singapore (\$)	2.6471
France (francs)	9.4071	· South Africa (rands)	9.5110
Germany (marks)	2.8149	Spain (pesetas)	238.29
Greece (drachma)	469.77	Sweden (kronor)	<u> 12.84</u>
Hong Kong (5)	11.98	Switzerland (francs)	2.3027
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Japan (yen)	186.69	Rates for Indication purp	oses only
Malaysia (ringgits)	5.8403		
Matra (lira)	0.6127	Source: Thomas Cook	

BUSINESS

'Labour will be taxing your home next year'

THE GOVERNMENT'S subsidy of BY LEA PATERSON UK home ownership will become a net tax for the first time next year, according to research out today.

The abolition of mortgage interest tax relief (Miras), rises in stamp duty and falling income support payments mean that the net subsidy of £2.5bn paid by the government to UK homeowners in 1997-98 will become a net tax of £140m from April 2000.

This corresponds to a net tax per household of £8.50, according to analysis conducted by ROOF magazine's Housing Market Healthcheck, and follows years of gradual erosion of the home ownership subsidy.

In 1992-93, UK homeowners received net payments from the government of £6.1bn, with MIRAS payments - which to-

tailed 55.2bn - accounting for the mean that householders are traditional instruments of conbulk of the pay-out. ROOF magazine's analysis demonstrates that just five years later, Miras payments had almost halved to £2.7bn, and net payments to homeowners had fallen by al-

most a third. By April 2000, the changes introduced in the last Budget which scrapped Miras and increased stamp duty for homes worth more than £250,000 - will

paying the Government for the

privilege of owning a home. Tim Dwelly, editor of ROOF Housing Market Healthcheck, warned that the trend towards rising taxes for UK homeowners was set to continue. The abolition of Miras and the transfer of interest rate control from the Treasury to the Bank of England mean that the Chan-

cellor will be unable to rely on

trol in times of housing boom. As a result, according to Mr Dwelly, the Treasury may be forced to resort to further increases in stamp duty and new methods of taxation, such as the imposition of VAT on new greenfield homes and ending the exemption from capital gains tax.

Mr Dwelly said: "Cheap European-style mortgage rates fordable borrowing could lead to boom conditions. With no control over interest rates and no Miras left to cut, the Treasury may have to use tax to control overheating. If this happens, it is essential that low income owners are protected".

Higher taxes on the housing market are relatively common within the euro-zone, ROOF magazine said.

General

Electric

still on

America

GENERAL ELECTRIC has re-

tained its position as America's

most powerful company, ac-

cording to the annual survey by

Forbes magazine, despite los-

ing the number one market

capitalisation slot to the IT

For the second year running,

GE, the US manufacturing

giant, has topped the presti-

gious "Forbes Super 100",

which ranks American com-

panies according to sales, prof-

A 13 per cent surge in 1998

net profits to \$9.3bn (£5.5bn)

ensured that GE, led since

1981 by Jack Welch, remained

at the top of the Forbes' prof-

it rankings. Despite only rank-

ing second in market value and

fifth in both sales and net as-

sets, GE's combined score was

sufficient to ensure that it beat

its rivals to the top slot in the

Super 100, which will be pub-

lished in full by Forbes on

During 1998, according to shrugged off its antitrust trou-

bles to more than double its

market capitalisation to \$404bn

(£250bn), easily trouncing GE

in the race to become Ameri-

Microsoft's market value

first overtook that of the US

electricity giant last September

a milestone seen by many as a

telling indicator of changes in

the American economy where

there has been an explosion of

high-tech companies. This pic-

ture was borne out elsewhere

ca's most valuable company.

Monday.

its, market value and assets.

top in

By Lea Paterson

giant Microsoft.

US jobless figures fall to a three-decade low

By Lea Paterson

THE US unemployment rate dropped to a three-decade low last month, official figures revealed yesterday, although signs of a slowdown elsewhere in the world's largest economy soothed fears of an imminent interest rate rise.

According to figures released by the US Labor Department, the unemployment rate hit 4.2 per cent in March, the lowest since February 1970 and a larger fall than had been expected by the market. The US unemployment rate is now significantly below that of Japan, once seen as the model for the rest of the world.

The rate of unemployment among Hispanics fell to 5.8 per cent, the lowest on record, the figures revealed.

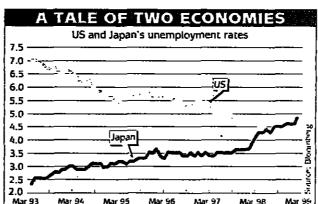
The detail of the monthly jobs report, one of the most market-sensitive pieces of economic data released in the US, revealed that the fall in the unemployment rate was largely due to a fall in the civilian labour force. The US economy added just 46,000 new jobs last month, well below anaslowest pace of monthly jobs growth for more than three

The weaker-than-forecast jobs growth, combined with a benign set of average earnings numbers, calmed fears that the US Federal Reserve would soon see fit to hike interest rates. A series of extremely strong official figures had recently heightened concerns about a US rate rise. Rate jitters were also sparked on Thursday evening, following the release of February's Fed meeting minutes. These showed that some Fed members had begun to argue for the reversal of the autumn's two-year notes falling 7 basis aggressive string of US interest rate cuts.

'US bonds posted their biggest increase for four weeks amid the renewed rate optimism, with the yield on ficer at BankBoston Corp. "It flation."



46,000 jobs and the unemployment rate fell to 4.2 per cent, a 29-year-low



points to 4.94 per cent. US equity markets were closed for the Easter holiday. "There's good news in this report", said Ned Riley, chief investment of-

Storehouse has resumed the

more Russian stores.

suggests there are little infla tionary pressures out there". Greg Jones, chief economist at Briefing.com, said: "Even with tight labour markets, we're seeing no acceleration of in-

Despite the weaker-thanexpected jobs growth, economists said demand for labour remained strong.

At least part of the weak jobs growth was driven by a statistical anomaly, they said. caused by the fact that this year's hiring trends had not matched the usual seasonal pattern.

"This was the warmest winter since 1895, which made seasonal adjustment a nightmare," said economist David Orr of First Union Corp. in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Manufacturers, many hit hard by the global economic slowdown that began in Asia near two years ago, cut 35,000 jobs last month, bringing the decline for the past year to

Construction hiring fell by a seasonally adjusted 47,000 jobs in March after the actual gain in jobs fell short of the normal advance for the start

Mining, which includes oildrilling, lost 7,000 jobs in March, bringing losses over the past year to 55,000. Agricultural services and real estate also recorded declines.

Hiring at restaurants and bars fell short of the usual seasonal gains.

However, robust employment growth continued in engineering and management services, health care, educational services and amusement and recreation. There also were gains in computer and data processing and fi-



company since 1981

France Storehouse returns to Russia spells out STOREHOUSE, the BhS and bank sale Mothercare retailer, is returning to Russia eight months

THE FRENCH government yes-terday outlined plans to sell shares in the bank Crédit Lyonnais, one of the most prominent beneficiaries of state aid in recent years. Up to 33 per cent of the bank

will be offered to "shareholder partners", who will receive a seat on the board. Prospective shareholder partners, who will each be allowed to take stakes of 1 to 10 per cent, have until the end of the month to file bids. Analysts predicted that a 10

per cent stake of Crédit Lyonnais, France's fourth-biggest bank, could be worth up to \$750m, and speculated that rival banks Crédit Agricole, Société Générale and Paribas could be among the bidders. "The final price is paid is going to depend a lot on just how much interest there is for the big stakes," said Alain Tchibozo, an analyst at CPR Finance. The finance ministry said it

intended to sell another 50 per cent of the bank by July in an initial public offering to the market. The government plans to keep 10 per cent and a small stake will be reserved for staff. France promised to privatise

the bank in exchange for Eu-

ropean Commission approval of

huge state bailouts.

Associate City Editor

after stopping shipments to the ing levels of disposable income country as the local economy had savaged sales making tradteetered on the brink of collapse. ing almost impossible. We are one of the first re-

tailers to really go back." Storesupply of product to its branch of BhS in Moscow and claims house said. "We have always trading is "very strong". It plans thought the area had a lot of poto monitor performance with a tential." Other UK companies view to the possible opening of have been badly affected by the Russian crisis. They in-Storehouse virtually pulled of clude Unilever and Cadbury Russia in August after its fran-Schweppes, which has a chocolate factory in Russia. Storechise partner over-extended house claims the financial itself and required re-financing. The combination of the devalimpact of the Russian meltuation of the rouble and plungdown was minimal, as it was

structured through a franchise partner and was insured.

Storehouse's expansion abroad comes at a time when Storehouse is also re-grouping at home. Last week it cut 90 jobs at BhS as it tries to streamline buying and merchandising functions while making the structure "more customer-led rather than product-led. Forty of the jobs were compulsory redundancies, with the rest achieved through natural wastage. The company said the cuts were not a reflection of

Separately. BhS plans to test new products and ranges in its of the summer.

group trading.

stores over the next few months. Following the success of its Christmas gift shop concept it plans to introduce gift sections all year round. It also plans to move into new areas, such as mobile phones. The stores have already been selling large volumes of mobile

nance and insurance.

Other seasonal sections are being launched. New "Holiday Shops" are being opened in BhS branches to capitalise on summer spending. "School Shops" will open in time for the back to school period at the end

phone accessories, the group

in the Forbes market capitalisation listings, where other major movers included Amazon.com and Yahoo!, which saw their market values surge by 917 per cent and 744 per cent respectively.

Although Microsoft may have toppled GE in the market capitalisation rankings, it has a long way to go before it clinches the Super 100 top spot. The IT giant came in at number thirty-two in the Super 100, with Citigroup - the financial giant formed by the merger of Citicorp and Travelers - coming in at second behind GE.

Mannesmann in £750m phones buy

GERMANY'S largest mobile phone group, Mannesmann. has bolstered its position in fixed-line communications with the £750m acquisition of one of the country's largest long-dis-

tance carriers. The purchase of the Otelo phone business from the German utility companies RWE and Veba will intensify the competition between Mannesmann. already one of the most formidable players in German telecoms, and the former state

monopoly Deutsche Telekom.

BY OUR CITY STAFF

analysts said. Mannesmann overtook Deutsche Telekom as mobile phone market leader seven years ago, but it still lags behind the former monopoly in fixed-line communi-

Mannesmann announced late on Thursday evening that its Arcor unit was paying 2.25 billion deutsche marks (£750m) for Otelo's fixed-line business. The deal includes Otelo's 400,000 customers, its 2,800 em-

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ployees, its brand name and the said Veba and RWE were conon-line service germany.net. However, it excludes both Otelo's 60.25 per cent stake in the cellular business E-Plus and its cable unit, TeleColum-

"The network structure and customer bases of Arcor and Otelo complement each other well." Arcor said in a statement.

Veba said it would now focus its telecommunications activities on mobile services, and that E-Plus would reach profitability next year Industry sources

sidering using the Otelo pro-E-Plus stake owned by the UK mobile group Vodafone.

The deal follows intense speculation about the future of have attracted a number of potential suitors.

Before Mannesmann's announcement on Thursday night, there had been widespread reports that the newly listed telecoms group Debitel

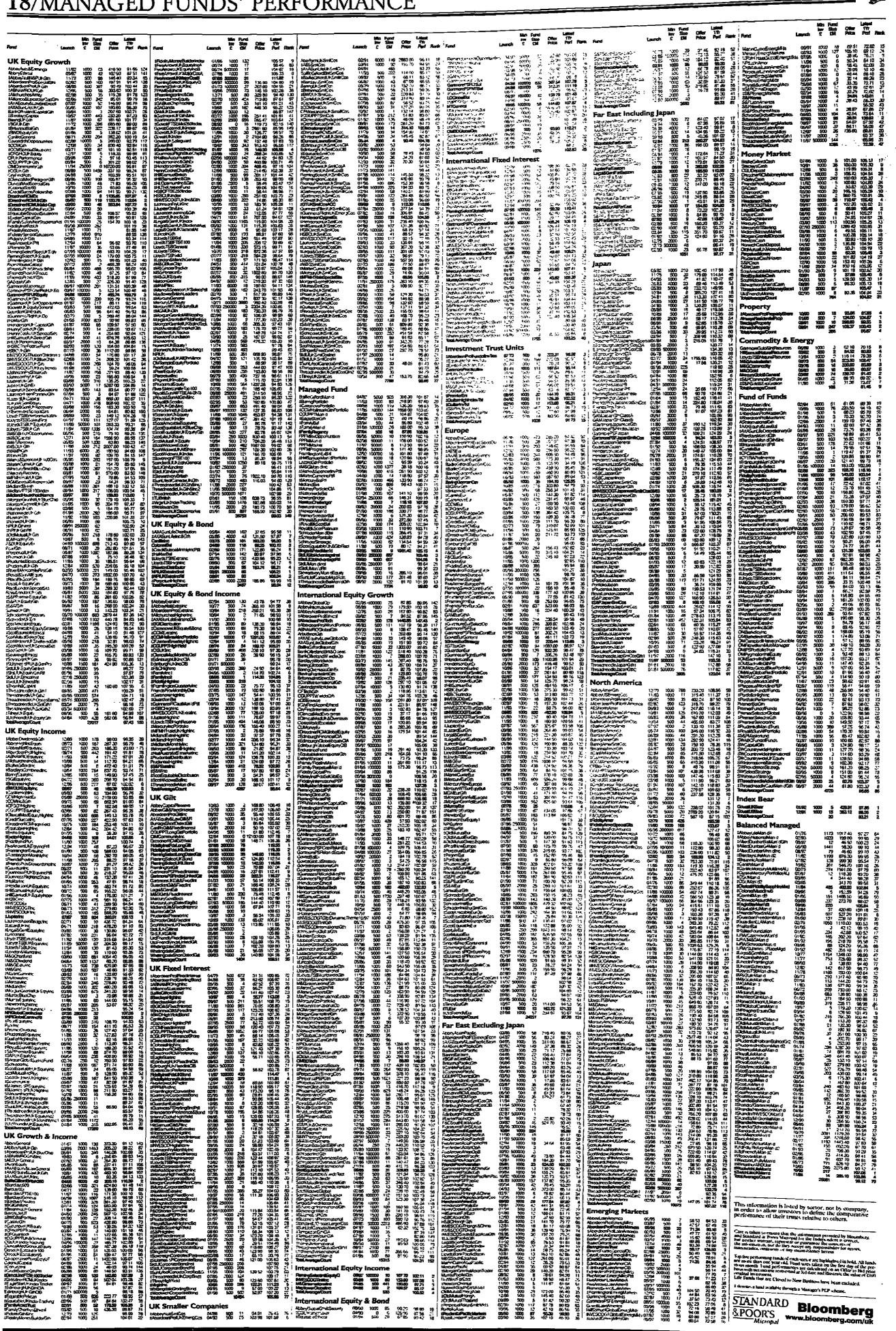
was close to clinching a deal

with Veba and RWE. Earlier, Mobilcom, another rising Gerceeds to buy the 17 per cent man carrier, said it had broke off talks with the two utilities.

The acquisition marks the second time Mannesmann has beaten German rivals in the Otelo, which was rumoured to race for a key domestic network. In 1996, it beat several bidders to a stake in the telecommunications network owned by the German railway. That gave Arcor the second largest fixed network in the country after Deutsche Telekom.

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spir Races

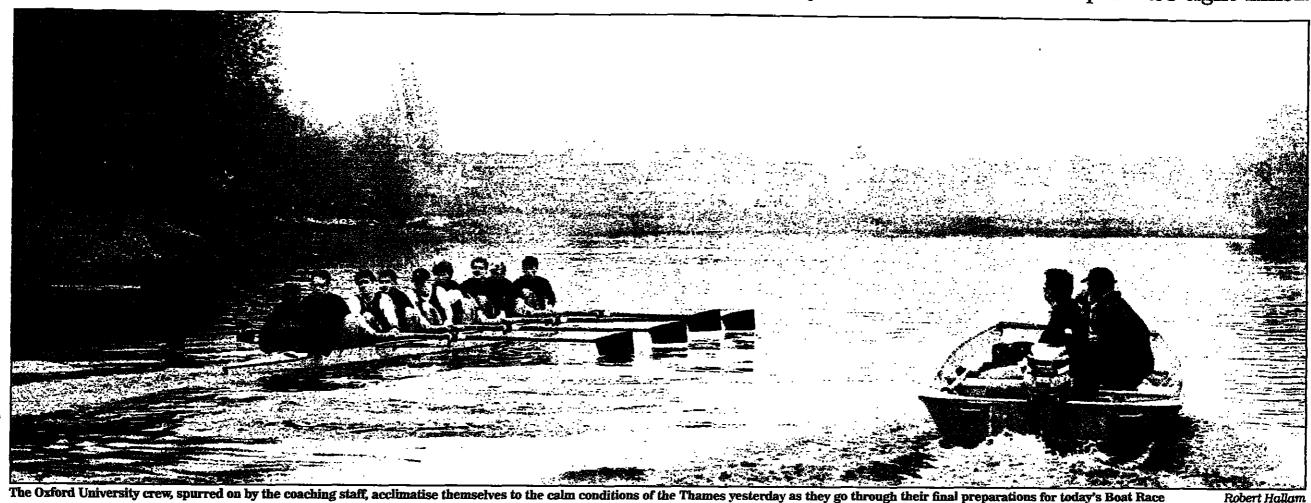


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SPORT

The Boat Race: Six-year dominance of Cambridge is under threat today as well-matched crews promise tight finish



Oxford believe the tide is turning

THE BOAT RACE, the 145th edition of which starts at 3.30pm today, will not be decided until well into the second half of the four-and-a-half-mile course with two very good, and very even, crews equally convinced of their ability and will to win.

They arrive at this equality from different places. Oxford, after six years of defeat, have built up a strong squad with a dozen men who might expect to win a Blue in another year, including two past Blues, now racing for the reserves, Isis. Cambridge, in contrast, have a small group of the highly talented and few extra contenders for the top boat.

BY HUGH MATHESON

The similarities, some interesting but superficial, and others fundamental to their speed are numerous. Each is stroked by a German. Colin von Ettingshausen had retired after the Atlanta Olympics following a career in the German team, winning a World Championship eights gold medal and Olympic silver behind Steven Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent in the pair in Barcelona.

Von Ettingshausen came to Oxford unfit, but wise to the way you build up your training and authority through a season to take a key seat. His coolness

under pressure will be critical to Oxford's tactical choices.

Against him is Tim Wooge, who hails from just 15km away in the Ruhr Valley but has done most of his recent rowing at Northeastern University in the United States. He took some time to adapt to the Cambridge style and Robin Williams, the chief coach, put him in the bows early on and worked hard to get him into the Light Blue rhythm before moving him to stroke. That left the Welsh-American Dai Ellis the freedom to come back to No 5, where his power and racing nous can underpin the effort of the whole. At No 7 each crew has a

member of recent British eights, Graham Smith for Cambridge and Oxford's Andrew Lindsay. They have Sydney 2000 in sight and are using the Boat Race as the best source of training while finishing formal education. They will be con-

testants for the same seat in the

British eight this year..

There are two Americans in the same seats. Nos 4 and 5, in each boat: Oxford has Martin Croty and Toby Aver. Croty is a nearly man, having twice finished fourth in World Championships in the United States coxed four and was by two seconds the strongest of all the Boat Race oarsmen on the in-

door rowing machines at the National Ergometer Championships last November.

At 23 he has plenty of time to prove his worth at Olympic level and the Boat Race is just a stage on that road. Ayer is not submerged into the rhythm of the crew like Croty but has learned to fit in. Although he carries his blade higher than the rest of the stroke side. Ayer applies the work in exactly the

The two American Light Blues are even more different: Ellis, at 6ft 5in the shorter by four inches, is a dedicated achiever who could race at the highest level provided his back can take the strain. Behind him Josh West, at 6ft 9in the tallest man ever to row in the race, looks awkward folded in the cockpit but has the reputation of making every boat he is in go a little faster.

There are two freshmen Britons, Tom Stallard at No 2 for the Light Blues and Dan Snow, filling the No 3 spot for Oxford. English public school educated and 20 years old, each defies his origins by bringing a "nutter" quality to their desire to win. In the Ergometer Championships each had to impress to make a place; Snow went out too fast but hung on when he hit the wall and kept going through a sea of lactic acid. Stallard crammed in a great performance for his weight and height by rowing very short sharp strokes for the last minute.

Two surviving Blues find themselves in the bows. Toby Wallace won the race with Cambridge last year and is the biggest bow man ever at 6ft 7in and 15st 2lb. Henrik Nilsson, the first Swede to compete in the race, in 1998, is at No 2, in front of his Oxford president, Charlie Humphreys, who is the lightest in either crew and a survivor from last year. In contrast, James Roycroft and Nick Robinson have both dropped

The Cambridge president Brad Crombie, is in his third race. "The one thing I can be definite about is this is my last race of any sort," he said. Crombie added that he is determined to go out on a winning note, but it is impossible to make any promises in this

Perhaps it is safest to bet that the head breeze which is forecast for the first half of the race will give Oxford's cleverer watermanship the slight advantage, allowing their experience and basic strength a chance to carry through, but it will be close enough to render any predictions meaningless.

Ellis driven on by a winner's desire

American is relishing being pushed to extremes as Cambridge press for victory. By Hugh Matheson

Boat Race. Dai Ellis is qualified to play play rugby for Wales and at 6ft 5in and 14st 4lb when down to less than 10 per cent fat - most second row forwards are over 22 per cent – he might be just what Graham Henry, the athletes, a ferocious achiever in Wales coach, is looking for.

They are one and the same guy. Clean cut and handsome, how much do you attribute to his East Coast prep school and Harvard background or to the Ellis antecedents who variously captained HMS Suffolk when chasing the Bismark through the Denmark Straits and a generation earlier judged in Imperial India after winning an

Oxford rugby Blue? Ellis holds dual nationality but is probably keener to catch the eye of Mike Teti - coach to the US men's eight for Sydney 2000 who is over here to help Oxford in their final week-than bridge you have seminars with

I will not think about it until after Saturday."

Ellis is an interesting specimen because he is, in common with many of these Boat Race all walks of life. They are not content to be ordinary in any in the Boat Race is not just a nice blue adornment to the cv. thin, but something that comes naturally to men who win at

everything in life. He is at Cambridge not because, after being offered a scholarship to each of the Boat Race participants, he went for the place with the more specific History and Philosophy of Science Department. He explains: "The great thing is that at Cam-

DAVID ELLIS is one of six north Martin McElroy, coach to the 10 or 20 people with tremendous Americans rowing in this year's British men's eight. Ellis adfeedback and constructive obmits: "The US team is a goal but servation from your classmates. There is more learning done there than perhaps in received work from your supervisors.

> many of the same reasons. "This, like the Harvard-Yale race, is over four and a half dimension. The chance to row miles where you have to live with a group of rowers and understand how they react pretty which might otherwise look a bit intelligently to the difficulties the race presents," he said. "You are bound to have to respond to adverse situations and learn not to throw in the towel. In that way because of the rowing but it is different from the usual 2000 metre Olympic distance, which is over before you have time to test some of the other extremes."

Ellis is attracted to rowing for

One of the key tasks for any coach or critic at this level is to make individual characters into crew members who will con-



Total focus: "The US team is a goal but I will not think about it until after Saturday," says David Ellis Robert Hallam

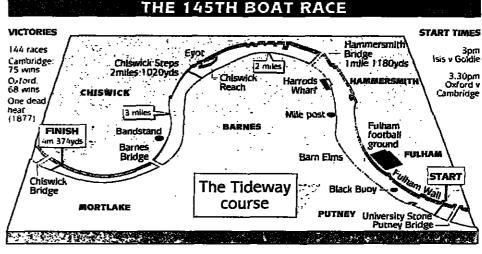
the character of the boat and identify those who will lead it into and out of trouble.

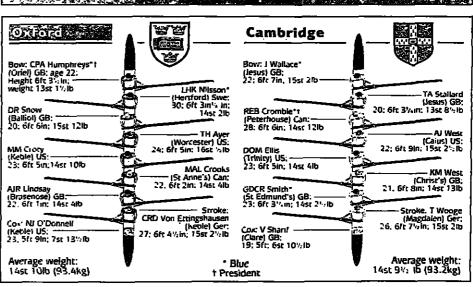
Occasionally there are crews who, on paper, look certain to win but fail because there is no individual willing to take the race by the scruff of the neck and drive the boat in front.

Ellis said: "I came in as an outsider and although I had experience. I first had to work for my position in the crew. Once the boat was set I became more vocal alongside Brad and Graham." These are Brad Crombie, the president, and the seasoned British interna-

tribute to the maximum, define tional, Graham Smith, Ellis goes on: "We try to keep the atmosphere positive. But none sees himself as a crew member alone. Each one has stepped up at crucial times. It is a very

impressive group." The coaches have been clever because the leadership and talent has been spread evenly down the crew. And those less at ease under the media glare will have someone close by who has been there before and is unlikely to freeze. You do not think Ellis will freeze, because for him such challenges are the best things





Equable winners prove nice guys do come first

AT THE risk of appearing churlish I have to say that Paula Radcliffe took defeat in last weekend's World Cross-Country Championships with almost inhuman fortitude. Radcliffe is a world-class athlete. Last year she annihilated Liz McColgan's British 10,000 metres record, set a world road best for five miles and won the European cross-country title.

But the world title remains her premier objective, and last Saturday's race over the sloping mud of Barnett Demesne in Belfast appeared to offer her the best opportunity of earning it. The competitors who had beaten her to gold on the previous two occasions, Derartu Tulu of Ethiopia and Sonia O'Sullivan of Ireland, were ab-



MIKE ROWBOTTOM

sent, and Radcliffe reported herself in peak condition for the event. She finished third - the only European in the top eight. Excellent run. Not what she

As the two Ethiopians who had finished ahead of her bent silvers..."

double and began retching loudly, Radcliffe stood - waxen but composed - explaining calmly that she couldn't have any complaints, because she couldn't have done more. Scream and shout, Paula!

Throw your shoes on the ground! Swear! No. There were no histrionics from the multilingual

first-class honours graduate. Towards the end of her postrace press conference the man from LEquipe asked her something in French as rapid as a TGV train. No worries - Paula translated, with a strange, starry smile: "He has just asked me if I think I am a finxed runner who can never win this event, like Catherina McKiernan, who won four

Paula! Refuse to answer! Storm out!

No. She made it sound as if she were translating a question that had been put to someone else. Then she summoned up a diplomatic response, pointing out, quite properly, that winning four world cross-country silvers was an amazing achievement, and that if she were to achieve such a record she would have - that's right no complaints.

I thought to myself: "How nice is Paula Radcliffe? Could anyone have been nicer in the circumstances - not possi-

I recalled a year earlier when she had set her world five

miles best within the snowy

grounds of Balmoral Castle

and had been kept waiting

could not be ratified. Paula! Complain! Make a

right royal fuss! No. Paula sat patiently in the all but deserted event mar-

quee until the Queen's own doctor arrived and submitted to her instructions over the necessary procedure. She pointed out that a witness would be required. The choice appeared to be between myself and two BBC employees waiting for transport after their broadcast - David Coleman and Sue Barker. Not a difficult decision.

For all I know. Radeliffe ions. But for those who follow straints.

TD 1

because no arrangements had her career there is a nagging been made for a urine test. wish that, just for once, she without which the new mark should let rip and send feathers flying.

"She shouldn't be taking it like this." said a colleague after the Belfast race. "She should be gutted."

Instinctively, I agreed with him. But was that fair? Part of this requirement for expression lies in the unspoken assumption that winners don't just have to care, they have to be seen to care. When they lose, it is like death. They go away like broken things.

And if Radeliffe doesn't show how much she cares. ergo she can't be a winner, because winners are intense. may go home and take out her driven, unreasonable people frustrations on the sofa cush- untrammelled by polite con-

bad losers. They are John McEnroe, Ayrton Senna, Mike

But there is a second sporting tradition – that of Arthur Ashe, Damon Hill, Trevor Brooking. Equable people. People who give the lie to the adage that nice guys don't come first, but who are also able to set sporting disappointment in context.

nice guy remains Ashe's resolute defeat of the swaggering young braggart, Jimmy Connors, in the Wimbledon final of

header with which Brooking Cup in 1980 and answered the the good British loser.

Winners are, by definition, pre-match jibes of Brian Clough that he "floated like a bee and stung like a butterfly". And Hill's eventual Formula

One success ahead of Michael Schumacher was sport's equivalent of sending the pantomime villain packing. We celebrate these mo-

ments of triumph all the more because they erode the prevailing view of what it takes to be a winner. When "losers" win, The archetypal victory of the we find it somehow easier to identify with.

All that extra goodwill lies in store for Radcliffe if, as she vowed in Belfast, she does keep coming back to the event The archetypal gesture of until she wins it. At the the nice guy remains the moment however she maintains her place in another howon West Ham United the FA nourable tradition - that of

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Rugby Union: Kiwi lock a walking sheet anchor as Wasps face Gloucester in tomorrow's Tetley's Bitter Cup semi-final

Weedon at home in the 'red zone'

THE DOOM and gloom brigade were in full voice when, within weeks of Wasps winning the Courage League title a little runs out this summer. Weedon under two years ago, the scandalously under-rated Matt Greenwood accepted a playercoaching role at Second Division Wakefield. "We'll miss every hair on his head," declared the Jeremiahs of Shepherd's Bush. "No other lock in England plays like Matt."

They were right. To find another Greenwood, the most consistent side in London were forced to take their cheque book all the way to Katikati.

A quiet, humdrum north island town tucked away in New Zealand's Bay of Plenty, Katikati is home to about 4,000 hardy, rugby-obsessed souls. One of them, Mark Weedon, proved so adept at playing the national game - or rather, practising the national religion that he grew far too big for both town and province and ended up enjoying the provincial championship limelight with North Harbour, winning a Super 12 contract with the Canterbury Crusaders and making a couple of All Black trials, where he mixed it with such luminaries of his tough, confrontational trade as Ian Jones and Robin Brooke.

But a birth certificate from Katikati is also a passport to the world, it seems; by some strange quirk of fate, a friend of the Weedon family had surfaced at Wasps in a coaching capacity and, when Greenwood left his crater-sized hole in the champions' engine room, he sent word straight back across the equator. Hence Weedon's sudden appearance at quiet, overarching presence made a humdrum old Sudbury, which remains the spiritual home of Waspdom despite the first XV's for Weedon to pursue: 30-yearmove to swanky Loftus Road. "I haven't regretted a minute of it," he said this week as he looked forward to tomorrow's Tetley's Bitter Cup semi-final with Gloucester. In fact, I'd love to stay for another couple

Although his initial contract may well find his employers thinking along similar lines, for he has played the Greenwood role to perfection, showing the same sort of selfless commitment to life in the trenches while frequently sticking his head above the parapet to win priceless line-out possession, more often than not in the "red zone" near his own line. In a Wasps pack full of unorthodox, heavily stylised performers -the Trevor Leotas and Simon Shaws of this world are one-off talents who rarely do things by the book - the resident Kiwi is a walking, talking

Which is probably why he was asked to replace a certain Lawrence Dallaglio as club captain. As Will Green, Wasps' shrewd and accomplished

rein, it reflects well on the characters of both men.

Lawrence has a hell of a lot to offer whatever side he might be part of he's a world-class player and a proven leader," said Weedon, relaxed and confident after a boots-and-all training session under the tutored eye of Roger Uttley, the former England coach and manager. "I'm not the sort to shun advice or ignore people just because I'm meant to be in charge and I'm pleased to say we have a very easy-going relationship. Actually, I think Lawrence has benefited from not captaining the club this season. When you are trying to lead both club and country, the pressure must be intolerable.

"Very few people do both back in New Zealand; I can't remember Sean Fitzpatrick captaining both Auckland and

In common with an increas-

'I always wanted to play in England and I wanted to play at full tilt - not come here at 32 and serve out my time'

"We have forwards who can do the fancy stuff, but it's also vital to have a guy who plays it straight down the middle, who takes the ball up, hits the breakdowns and clears the rucks. It's not glamorous and it doesn't make the headlines, but it allows others to do their thing. Basically, Mark is always there when we need him."

It would have been wholly understandable had Dallaglio's positive, pro-active style of leadership almost impossible old New Zealanders with a Super 12 background may know their way around a rugby pitch but, generally speaking, England captains are not put on this earth to do the bidding of others. When Weedon insists that he has been given a free

tight-head prop, points out: ing number of southern hemisphere imports, Weedon believes the international playing field is beginning to level out. A couple of years ago, the dynamism and velocity of Super 12 rugby was considered, at least by its more en-

thusiastic practitioners, to be

wholly out of reach of mere

Europeans; now, there is much

talk of northern standards

improving and gaps closing. There are always going to be differences, mainly because the northern hemisphere season is so long: I trained every day in Super 12. just as I train every day here at Wasps, but the Super 12 season lasts four months, not eight or nine. It's taken a fair bit of adjusting to, the sheer scale of the campaign in these parts. But I'd say both fitness and skill levels are rising in England – the pace is

best New Zealand provincial stuff - and they'll rise still further now Europe is back on the club agenda.

"I'm very excited by Europe. simply because it will generate such a buzz. People here have been pretty critical of Super 12 and I'd accept that it is, or at least was, a very different brand of rugby and that it took one or two liberties, but it got a new audience talking about the game and, more importantly, it got them watching it. We're all in the business of selling rugby to whoever will buy it and from that point of view, Super 12 worked.

"Not that I miss it greatly. I always wanted to play in England and I wanted to play at full tilt, not come here at 32 and serve out my time. I've always responded to a thriving club culture and that's what I've found here at Wasps: in fact, the experience has been everything I'd hoped for and more.

"Back home, the club culture is beginning to die a little, especially in the rural provinces. Here, the opposite seems to be happening. Just look at the crowds we're pulling in."

Wasps, nicely on a roll after an in-and-out pre-Christmas run, may well break their Loftus Road record tomorrow. thanks to an upsurge of lateseason interest in the capital and the traditional fanaticism of the Gloucester rugby public. "It's a wonderful prospect: I left New Zealand to see the world and I'm certainly seeing it here in London," said Weedon. "All I need to see now is some silverware in the Sudbury trophy

If Wasps, the best club side never to have won the Cup, get past Gloucester and go on to Twickenham glory in six weeks' time, the quiet hard man from All Black country will have earned his salary a dozen times over. As Bill McLaren would undoubtedly say, given half the chance: "They will never believe it in Katikati."



Richmond primed to cast aside woes in cup of hope

IF GARY PLAYER'S clever oneliner about the umbilical link between sporting discipline and sporting achievement - "The more I practise," he famously pronounced, "the luckier I seem to get" - struck a chord with generations of hack golfers, it cuts very little ice at the Madeiski Stadium these days. No one, but no one, works

harder at their rugby than John Kingston and Ben Clarke, respectively coach and captain of Richmond, yet their unstinting efforts have left them with one foot among the also-rans of the Allied Dunbar Premiership and the other in a financial black hole. So much for Gary the Great and his homespun philosophy.

Were it not for their bad luck, Richmond would have no luck at all. In the space of two seasous, they have been shafted by their local council, lost Scott Quinnell to homesickness and seen Ashley Levett, their resident moneybags. disappear into the distance, leaving the whole shooting match in what is euphemistically known as "administration". Thirty-four redundancies later, they have been informed that this year's Tetley's Bitter Cup champions will not merit a place in next season's European Cup. All they need now is an outbreak of measles.

European qualification and the financial rewards that go with it would have meant the ruthlessly physical packs in

BY CHRIS HEWETT

world to the pauperised Londoners and they will not be consoled by the knowledge that from next season onwards, the knock-out champions will indeed be deemed worthy of a place among the continental elite. Once again, Richmond find themselves in the right place at the wrong time. Yet they still consider today's semifinal with Newcastle a game worth winning.

In fact, they feel they have to win it, if only to assure themseives that the good guys sometimes get an even break

"I believe in hard work, in the work ethic," said Kingston this week, "and while we've been through the grinder over the last month especially, I wouldn't swap what I have with many of my direct competitors. Whatever I've done in life, I've enjoyed success, and I think this side can be successful, too. We're good to watch; to my way of thinking, we're a side capable of varying our style according to the things we're trying to achieve. We're not stereotyped and that counts for a lot

All the same, this could be a that Newcastle are equally keen to rescue their season from the doldrums of mid-table anonymity, it will be no particular surprise if two of the most

England make mincemeat of and with three international each other on the outskirts of Reading this afternoon. Richmond, certainly, look ready for war: with Craig Quinnell making a rare appearance on the blind-side flank and the 6ft 5in, 19st teenager Andy Sheridan champing at the bit in the second row, they are handsomely equipped to bully a Newcastle eight shorn of their Springbok

However, Kingston knows

prop, Marius Hurter.

that Newcastle possess a playmaker capable of posing the most serious of threats - and he is not thinking in terms of Jonny Wilkinson either. It is age scale, Rob Andrew, who has the Richmond coach on edge. "Rob is a better player now than he was in '82, when I picked him for the Cambridge team in the Varsity match," said Kingston. "I've known him a long time, I respect him, I like the guy enormously and I can say that Newcastle could not have picked a better man to lead their professional revolution. He's deeply competitive and I have no doubt that he is look-

ners' medal." In tomorrow's second semi-"route one" occasion. Given final, Gloucester will require a startling upturn in form to even threaten the progress of Wasps, the tournament favourites, at Loftus Road. Some 3,000 supporters, possibly more, will

ing to end his career with a win-

tight forwards - Dave Sims, Rob Fidler and Phil Vickery expected to play at least some part in the proceedings, the visitors are in better shape than of late. However, the Londoners hold all the aces and possess all the bullets, even though they go in without their concussed No 8, Peter Scrivener.

The semi-finals have restricted today's Premiership programme to two matches, but both are significant in terms of European qualification. Jeremy Guscott returns to

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the Bath side for the visit of Leicester, the champions-elect, the man at the other end of the and a home win at the Recreation Ground would go a long way towards earning the West Countrymen a top six finish.

Bath are back on track after their mid-season traumas with coach Andy Robinson saying: "The hard work is paying off and we are getting some old Bath luck. After our losing midseason spell we are now enjoying our rugby and have regained our self-belief."

London Irish, who are also within touching distance of a lucrative European slot, recall Michael Worsley at loose-head prop for their trip to Sale, a side ravaged by injury and knocked sideways by the resignation of their coach, John Mitchell. As Dick Best, the Irish rugby director, is no doubt aware. there will never be a better time make the trip from Kingsholm to visit Heywood Road.

England fail to follow Bertram lead

sively beaten after another splendid start when they met Argentina in the second game of their Four Team tournament in Buenos Aires last night. Tom Bertram gave them the lead in the fourth minute, scoring his first international goal, but England then lost their way, slumping to a 5-2 defeat.

Thereafter England failed to cope with the speed of the Argentinian attack and were

HOCKEY BY BILL COLWILL

badly punished as a result in the second half after turning around at 1-1. The South Americans quickly ran up a 5-1 scoreline before Russell Garcia pulled a goal back when he converted England's eighth and

last penalty corner. The England coach, Barry

"Very disappointing display especially after such a promising start to the tour. The effort of the team could not be questioned but the way we directed that effort was naive on occasions. England play Argentina B

Slough started their European Club Championship in Den Bosch yesterday also with Dancer, said after the game: an early goal in the opening

today and with a win will expect to have a second chance at the A side in tomorrow's final.

Unlike England, Slough went on to win convincingly 5-0.

ARSENTINA: M. Roncon: E. Paulon, D. Chodo (capt. M. Peliegrino, R. Perez. C. Reregul: J. Lornio, R. Vila, 5. Caputro: M. Vila, 4. Castelli, G. Orozco, Substitutes used: T. MacCornick, F. Morest, E. Paulon.

ENGLAND: J. Lewis (C. Cannock); M. Johnson (Cannock), T. Bertram (Bourmille), J. Hailis (Cannock), B. Wangh (Souhgate. Capt.); J. Wallis (Teddington), B. Garrard (leddington), R. Garrard (leddington), R. Garrard (Harvestehuder); B. Sharpe (Cannock), G. Coner (Havant), D. Hall (Guildford), Substitutes used: B. Barnes (Reading), D. Woods (Southgate), C. Substitutes used: B. Cannes (Southgate), M. Pearn (Reading), Umphress G. Poleri (Arg.) and C. Hough (Engl.).

minute when Jane Smith took

advantage of poor defending.

Unlike England, Slough went on

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SEPENDENT Sept 1999

semi-final

Happy days for Stiles the stylish assassin

A FRENCH JOURNALIST once wrote that Nobby Stiles was the best advertisement for his father's business. His father was an undertaker.

Garth Crooks reminded England's greatest five-foot five-and-ahalf-inch hero of this in Tuesday's Motch Of Their Day, BBC2's afternoon series that is sadly approaching the end of its run. "They used say I kicked him and he buried them," he responded, teeth in and glasses on looking like a Tommy in a black and white war film.

The programme's subjects have generally been interviewed in the ground they were most associated with, and although in Stiles' case there is an argument for Wembley. he was on the Stretford End with Crooks. "I used to come here with

CHRIS MAUME **SPORT** ON TV

my uncle Peter and my brother," he said. "At half-time I could look out and see Glover Cables, the works team,

playing over there." Though he was the bedrock of Alf Ramsey's midfield, playing in front of Jack Charlton and Bobby Moore. Matt Busby generally employed him in United's back four alongside Bill Foulkes. His eyes were opened when he played in the 1962 semi-final

semis United lost during the 1960s).

"I was 20 at the time and I marked a fellow called John White. He gave me the biggest chasing I ever got in my life. They called him the Ghost. I learned a great lesson from him that if you're going to play against a great player and you've going to manmark him, you've got to sacrifice yourself for the team."

And so he did for his entire career. much to the irritation of opposing fans. He enjoyed a long-lasting lovehate relationship with the Kop, dating from one of his first appearances there when he accidentally caught Tommy Lawrence, the Flying Pig. with a flying boot. His response to the outrage of the Koppites was two-fingered, as was theirs back. And on

against Spurs (one of the host of subsequent visits he would trot over be last out. 'Come on, hurry up before the kick-off, grinning through his two-fingered accolade.

He paints some vivid pictures. "In the United dressing-room we had Paddy Crerand - he never stopped talking, Besty [George Best] would come in 10 minutes before kick-off, put his gear on and play. I never spoke to anybody." His pre-match ritual was a classic example of the obsessivecompulsive disorder that grips footballers getting ready for a game.

"Put my shorts on, put my contacts in, go to the small bath, warm my feet up, dry them, put my socks on, clean the inside of my boots, put some soft soap inside them. It used to take me nearly an hour to get ready. Paddy would be saying to me, 'Come on, come on,' because he always had to

Happy.' They called me Happy because I was such a moaner"

There is some sensational footage of challenges on both sides of the laws of the game. When he did mistime a tackle, the results were usually spectacular, the pick of the programme being a tackle that turned the Spaniard, Sanchis, into a helicopter rotor. But he was sent off only twice in his career - "Though I did get a three-week holiday every Christmas" - and one of those was for remonstrating with a linesman in the first leg of the World Club Championship against Estudiantes after nearly 90 minutes of being punched, kicked, butted, gouged and spat at, mostly by Carlos Bilardo, who later took Argentina to the 1986 World Cup.

it again (and again): Sir Alf once said that his World Cup-winning side contained four world-class players, and Stiles was one of them. So when Crooks inquired, "So how would Nobby Stiles cope with the game today?" it was impossible not to feel embarrassed for Stiles, being asked such a daft question. Far from stalking out, as he was entitled to do, he made the point that players like himself and Norman Hunter, hard but skilled, would have flourished in an era when "the percentage game only gets you so far" and "the best teams come from the back and play... I believe I would have played

today." You're not joking, mate. One of the occasional benefits of

I've written it before and I'll write you get to witness historic sporting moments with a random cross-section of the population. So it was that I found myself on Tuesday in a pub round the corner from Wormwood Scrubs, explaining to an engrossed knot of drinkers the basics of cricket as West Indies approached their famous victory over Australia. "The last time I watched cricket was Headingley," said one, the spitting image of the Fast Show know-all who's done it all, 30 years man and boy.

"Tve never seen so many people so engrossed in a cricket match," the barman said. "Well, it is one of the greatest matches in history." I told him, anxious that he should be aware of precisely what he was witnessing. "I wish they were all like that, then." being undished and uncabled is that he said. "Ah," I replied. "No chance."

Australia ready to drop weary Warne

GRADUALLY AND grudgingly, Australia appear to have accepted the irrefutable evidence and are prepared to drop leg-spinner Shane Warne for the decisive fourth and final Test against the West Indies, starting here today.

A month ago, it would have been an unthinkable proposition. That it is now the most likely option – with Australia 2-1 down in the series and needing outright victory to retain the Frank Worrell Trophy they have held since 1995 - accentuates their desperate situation.

Test cricket's most successful spin bowler and the cornerstone of Australia's status as the strongest team of the day, Warne's threat has been so diminished by a shoulder operation nine months ago that he has managed only two wickets in the previous two Tests.

They have been the leftanded wicket-keeper Ridley Jacobs in the second and Courtney Walsh, the No 11 with more ducks than anyone in the history of Test cricket, in the third. Both were caught in the outfield and they have come at a cost of 288 runs.

Swayed more by sentiment than statistics, the Australian captain, Steve Waugh, in his first series at the helm, has loyally stuck by his vice-captain. But the use of Warne and fellow leg-spinner Stuart MacGill has unbalanced the attack and thrown too much responsibility on the fast bowlers, Glenn McGrath and Jason Gillespie.

The upshot has been a back strain that has eliminated the impressive Gillespie from today's Test and a workload that left McGrath exhausted after 77 overs in the thrilling third Test in Barbados that captain Brian Lara's masterly. unbeaten 153 secured for

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BY TONY COZIER in Antigua

the West Indies by one wicket. Adam Dale, the Queensland swing bowler, will replace Gillespie on the ground where he earlier took 15 wickets at under 10 runs each in two minor tour matches. Colin Miller, the 35year-old Tasmanian who suddenly emerged from the oblivion of 15 years state cricket to make his Test debut in Pakistan last year, would pro-

vide Waugh with two options as he is capable of both lively nace and off-spin Dale has had one Test,

Miller six and MacGill, likely to be preferred to Warne, 11. It is a serious lack of experience. The issue over Warne has un-

derstandably created an intense debate among former Australian players, as it no doubt has among the tour selectors of whom Warne, as vice-captain, is one. A bowler with 317 Test wickets and a reputation to match is not easily discarded. Whatever decision is taken

Stewart: We're not money-grabbers

THE ENGLAND captain, Alec BY MYLES HODGSON Stewart, yesterday insisted his in Lahore World Cup squad were not "money-grabbers" and would

unofficial shop steward in the negotiations with the England and Wales Cricket Board over the contract for the seven weeks the 15-man squad will be together should they triumph in this summer's event. But as he and the rest of the

party still wait for a contract to be drafted, Stewart claimed they were not asking for unreasonable amounts and insisted this issue would not deflect them from their main objective of winning the World

"Conversations have taken place but as yet we haven't had anything official from the Board," Stewart said. "The players have had a couple of

meetings, but when we go on to not hold Lord's to ransom over the field of play or when we do the contract wranglings that are any practice, as always, it's threatening to disrupt their not on our minds. We are not preparation for the tournament saying we want £1m a game or Stewart has been elected as anything like that, but we are the elite players and we have been picked for the World Cup."

The players are believed to want a set salary, appearance money for each game, incentives for World Cup progress and a bonus should they win the tournament. The board's offer is likely to be much less.

This weekend England play back-to-back day-night fixtures in Lahore against Pakistan A, whose line-up is expected to include Test players Wagar MICHIGE TEST DIAYETS WAQAT Younis and Mushtaq Ahmed. ENGLAND (from): N V Knight (Warwickshire). A J Stewart (Surrey, Capt). G A Hick (Wortestershire). G P Thorpe (Surrey), N H Fairbrother (Lancashire). A J Hollinake (Surrey). M A Ealbam (Kent), R D B Croft (Glamorgan). I D Austin (Lancashire). D Googh (Yorkshire). A D Mishlally (Leicestershire). A Filmoff (Lancashire). A R C Fraser (Middleser). V J Wells (Leicestershire). before the toss at the Antigua Recreation Ground this morning, nothing has more starkly revealed Australia's sudden distress than the conundrum over Warne.

The West Indies, who were in a state of even more chaos and despair following their record-low 51 all out and defeat by 312 runs in the first Test, now have few worries.

Lara's 213 in Kingston and unbeaten 153 in Bridgetown not only inspired unexpected victories but engendered a new spirit that was markedly absent in the preceding 5-0 humiliation in the series in South Africa.

Lara is now back to the scene of his world record 375 five years ago. His and his team's most dangerous opponent now is as much complacency as Australia.

WEST INDIES (from); B C Lara (capt). S L Campbell, A F G Griffith, D R E Joseph. W W Hinds, C L Hooper, J C Adams, R D Jacobs, N O Petry, C E L Ambrose, P T Collins, C A Waish and C O Collymore AUSTRALIA (from): S R Waugh (capt), M J Slater, M T G Elliott, G S Blewett, J L Langer, M E Waugh, R T Ponting, I A Healy, S K Warne, C R Miller, A C Dale, S C G

India's captain. Mohammad Azharuddin, will miss tomorrow's triangular series one-day final against Pakistan in Bangalore. Azharuddin has not recovered from a shoulder injury that kept him out of India's last two matches and was left out of a provisional squad named yes-

"It (the injury) is nothing serious but with the World Cup around the corner we do not want to take any chances," said Raj Singh Dungarpur. president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India.

INDIA (from). A Jadeja (capt), S Gangu-b, S Ramesh. R Dravid, A Khurasa, R Singh, N Mongia, H Kanithar, A Kumble, A Agarkar, V Prasad, N Chopra, J Srinath, G Pandev



Mark Foster (right) cools off after winning the 50m freestyle at the World Short Course Championships Reuters

Foster halfway to double target

MARK FOSTER recaptured the 50m freestyle title at the World Short Course Championships here yesterday. The 28-year-old. who swims for the University of Bath, last won the event at the inaugural championships in Palma in 1991. Foster moved on the blocks but once into his stroke was powering ahead. "I'm happy." he said. "I came here to win the double and break a record. Ive still got the 50m butterfly [tomorrow]."

onds was half a second outside the world record he established in Sheffield last December on

By Derrick Whyte

in Hong Kong

his way to winning the European short course title.

Cork Constitution v Ballymena

Nanderers v Portadown.

nd Division: Derry v Doly

gannon v Bective Pangers: Old Belvedere i UCC, Old Crescent v Greystones; Sker-

EUROPEAN CUP-WINNERS' CUP A

Division: Beeston v Dinamo Ekatennbur

Rust: Three Rock Rovers v KS Poctowi

(Pol) (at Amstelveen, Neth). **C Division** Cardiff v ABC Team (Fin) (al Tinglay, Sloven)

EUROPEAN WOMEN'S CLUB CHAM-PIONSHIP A Division: Slough v kolos Borispol (Ukr): Edinburgh Ladies v Slavia

Praha (Cz Rep) (or Den Bosch, Neth), B

EUROPEAN WOMEN'S CUP WIN-

NERS' CUP A Division: Chiton v Dinamo

Sumy (Ukr): Glasgow Western v CD Ter-rassa (Sp) (at Terrassa, Sp). B Division

Blackpool 49th, English Riviera Festival (of

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Birmingham v

Greater London (7.0); Derby v Leicester (7.30), Thames Valley v Chester (8.0); Wor-

ICE HOCKEY

SEKONDA SUPERLEAGUE Play-off

Semi-finals: Cardiff v Manchester (2.0)

OTHER SPORTS

TENNIS: Davis Cup World groups

Britain v USA (two singles rubbers) (at

thing . Newcastle (8.0)

chester Evening News Arena).

ROWING: London Boat Race.

Nutional Indoor Arena, Birmingha

Newtown v AHTC (Aur.) (or Rome).

Earlier, James Rickman failed to live up to his prediction that he would earn a gold medal for Britain and had to settle for third place in the

100m butterfly final. The race the old mark to win gold in was won by the defending 3:35.01, while earlier Japan's Sweden, in a new champitralian Michael Klim was to claim her second gold. second in 51.56sec and Hickman a disappointing third in 51.60. Hickman said: "I haven't felt myself today. I had a bad night thinking about the race.

I felt I could swim faster." Australia's Grant Hackett smashed the 400m freestyle record, shaving four seconds off

champion, Lars Frolander of Masami Tanaka broke the world record in the women's 200m onship record of 51.45sec. Aus- breastroke with a time of 2:20.22

The Netherlands team won the final of the men's 4x200m freestyle relay with a time of 7:04.48. Britain were second with 7:07:20 and Canada finished third in 7:08.02. The favourites, Australia, were disqualified in a morning heat for swimming

TODAY

FOOTBALL 3.0 unless stated

PREMIERSHIP Blackburn v Middlesbrough...... Chariton v Chelsea Leeds v Nottingham Forest . Southampton v Arsenal 9 Wimbledon v Manchester Utd

10 Bamsley v Sheffield Utd . 11 Bradford City v Grimsby . 11 Bradford City v Grimsby 12 Bristol City v Port Vale 13 Norwich v Crystal Palace... 14 Oxford Utd v Bolton 15 QPR v Huddersfield 16 Stockport v Bury ... 17 Sunderland v West Bromwich 20 Wolves v Portsmouth .

SECOND DIVISION Blackpool v Walsall 22 Macclesfield v Wycombe 25 Stoke v Lincoln City em v Bristoi Rovers . 27 York v Chesterfield

THIRD DIVISION 32 Hartlepool v Brentford ... 35 Mansfield v Brighton...... 36 Phynouth v Shrevisbury . 38 Scunthorce v Exeter ...

BANK OF SCOTLAND 40 Aberdeen v Dunfermline .. 41 Cetals v Dundes.....

k2 Dundee Utd v Motherwell... 43 Hearts v Klimarnock SCOTTISH LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION 44 Airdrie v Ayr45 Morton v Falkirk

46 Hamilton v Hibernian 47 Raith v Stranfaer SECOND DIVISION 49 Arbmath v Partick.

- Livingston v Alioa - Oween of the South v East Fife

THIRD DIVISION

NATIONWIDE CONFERENCE arrow v Farnborough . Kidderminster v Doncaster... Leek Town v Kettering . - Morecambe v Hereford

- Rushder & Diamonds v Cheltenham - Southport v Hednesford..... - Stevenage v Northwich - Yeovil v Welling

 Yeould v Welling
 RYMAN LEAGUE Premier Dhriston:
 RYMAN LEAGUE Premier Dhriston:
 Aylesbury v Gravesend; Basingstoke v
 Bishop's Szordont; Boreham Wood v Hendon; Bromley v Billericay Tn; Carshalton
 Ychesham; Dag & Red v Sutton Uti; Dul-wich v Akdershot; Enfield v Purfieet; Harden V Akdershot; Enfield v P row Borough v Hampton: Heybridge v Slough: Walton & Hersham v St Albans. First Division: Berkhamsted Town v Levislan: Berkhamsted Town v Leyton Pennanc Grays Athletic v Chertsey Town, Hitchin Town v Romford: Leather-head v Oxford City: Maidenhead Utd v Wealdstone; Molesey v Bognor Regis Town; Staines Town v Braintree Town; Unbridge v Barton Rovers; Wembley v Yearing; Worthing v Croydon, Second Division: Abingdon fown v Leighton Yown; Banstead Athletic v Chalfont St Peter; Banstead Athletic v Chalfort St Peter; Barlding v Herrford Town; Bedford Town v Thame Utd; Bracknell Town v Tooting & Mitcham; Edgware Town v Hungerford Town; Hemel Hempstead v Witham Town; Marlow v Wokingham Town; Met Police v Harlow Town; Windsor & Eton v Northwood; Wwenhoe Town v Horsham. Tolind Division: Camberley Town v Vestbers. Kingsbury Town: Cheshunt v Hornchurch Clapton v Ford Utd; Corinthian Casuals v Lewes; Croydon Athletic v Egham Yown; Dorking v Aveley; East Thurrock Utd v Southall; Flackwell Heach v Wingare & Pinchley; Tring Yown v Ware.

OND LEAGUE Premier Divi-Draischen Leascole (Premier Dra-sion: Accrington Stanley V.Leigh RMI: Al-princham v Hyde Utd: Blyth Spartans v Worksop: Cohwyn Bay v Gateshead; Gainsborough v Frickley, Guiseley v Sishop Auckland; Lancaster v Runcorn; Skinop Auckland: Lancaster v Klincom; Marine v Chorley; Spennymoor v Emley; Scalybridge v Whitby Town; Winsford Urd v Bamber Bridge. First Division: Belper Town v Farsley Celtic; Bradford P A v Wit-ton Albion; Burscough v Great Harwood Town; Congleton Town v Lincoln Urd; Droylsden v Trafford; Eastwood Town v Whitley Bay; Fildon v Hudmail Town; Har-reans v Marine; Town; Netherfield.

rogate Town v Madock Town; Netherfield Kendal v Alfreton Town; Rachiffe Bor-ough v Ashron Utd; Stocksbridge P S v Gretna. DR MARTENS LEAGUE Premier Diwith the Alexande Premier Drussions Atherstone v Numeaton: Boston Utd v King's Lynn: Crawley Town v Weymouth; Dorchester v Gloucester City; Gresley Rowers v Cambridge City; Halesowen v Tamworth; fikeston In v Grantham; Merthyr v Burton Albion;

Rothwell Town v Hastings: Salisbury v Bath City: Worcester City v Bromsgrove. Middland Division: Bedworth Utd v Hinckley Utd: Bilston Town v Stafford Rangers: Bloowich Town v Blakenalt: Clevedon Town v Weston-super-Mare: Moor Green v Stourbridge: Newport A F C v Cinderford Town: Paget Rangers v Sutton Coldfield Town: R C Warwick v Evesham Utd: Sollhull Boro v Redditch Utd: VS. Rugby v Sheoshed Dynamo; Wis-Utd: V.S.Rugby v Shepshed Dynamo: Wis-bech Town v Stamford AFC. Southern bech Town v Stamford AFC. Southern Division: Baldock Town v Brackley Town: Bashley v Newport (IoW); Chelmsford City v Erith & Belvedere: Corby Town v Raunds Town: Darrford v Fisher Achietic London; Sittingbourne v Margate: St Leonards v Ionbridge Angels; Witney Town v Andover; Yare Town v Cirencester Town.

Division: Armthorpe Welfare v North Fer-riby United: Brigg Town v Eccleshill Utd. Buxton v Ossett Town; Garforth Town v Sheffield; Hallam v Arnold Town; Ossett v Thackley, Selby Town v Glasshoughton: Welfare Staveley MW v Liversedge. NSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE Premier Division: Canterbury City v Faver-sham Town; Crockenhill v Whitstable Rown; Greenwich Borough v Lordsvaoor; Herne Bay v Deal Town: Ramsgate v Beck-enham Town; Slade Green v Thamesmead Town; Tunbridge Wells v Erith Town; V C D Athletic v Sheppey Utd. UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES **LEAGUE Premier Division:** Boston v

Kempston; Ford Sports v Eynesbury, Holbeach v Wellingborough; N Spencer v Bourne; S & L Corby v Blackstone; Stotfold v Long Buckby, Wootton v Spald-ing, Yaxley v Buckingham.

Ing: vaucy v Bucangnam.
UNILET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE
First Disision: Broadbridge Heath v Portfield: East Preston v Pagham; Eastbourne
Town v Whitehawk; Horsham YMCA v
Wick: Langney v Chichester: Littlehampton v Hassocks: Redfüll v Shoreham;
Bitomer v Fastbourn Litt's Setse v Hallngmer v Eastbourn Utd: Selsey v Hail-SCREWIFDX DIRECT LEAGUE Pre-

mier Division: Backwell Utd v Bris-lington; Bridgewater Town v Mangotsfield Utd; Bridport v Taunton Town. NORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE First Division: Atherton L R v Prescot Cables: Clitheroe v Mossley: Holker Old Boys v Glossop North End: Kidsgrove Ath-letic v Skelmersdale Utd; Maine Road v Cheadle Town; Newcastle Town v Salford City, Ramsbottom Utd v Nantwich Town; Rossendale Utd v Vauxhall G M; St He-lens Town v Workington.

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND POOTBALL ALLIANCE: Halesowen POOTBALL ALLIANCE: Halesowen Harriers v Barwell; Kings Norton Town v Pershore Town; Oldbury Urd v Stour-port Swifts; Peisall VIIIa v Willenhall Town: Rocester v Rushall Olympic; Shifnal Town v Sandwell Borough; Stapenhill v Knypersley Victoria: Stratford Town v Boldmere St Michaels; Wednesfield v

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE First DI-JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE First Di-vision: B.A.T. v Cowes Sports: Bemerton Heath Harl v Afc Totton; Brockenhurst v Portsmouth R.N. Downton v Afc Newbury. Fareham Town v Eastleigh. Lymnigton & New Milton v Bournemouth. Money Fields v Hamble ASSC: Thatcham Town v East Coves Vics; Wiltchurch Uts v Christchurch; Wimborne Town v Gosport Borough. JEWSON FOOTBALL LEAGUE Pre-Division: Diss Town v Harwich ton; Felbstowe Port & Town v Wa

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST Premier ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTHERN ARROTT INSURANCE NORTHERN LEAGUE First Division: Billingham Synthonia v Billingham Town. Chester Le Street v Bedington Terners. Dursson Federation v Crook Town, Easington v Consett: Morpeth Town v Penrith: Newcastle Blue Star v Seaham Red Star: Tow Law Town v Guisborough Town. HIGHLAND FOOTBALL LEAGUE: Bro-ra Rangers v Huntly, Cove Rangers v El-gin City, Deveronvale v Clachnacuddin; Fort William v Fraserburgh: Keith v Wick Academy, Nam County v Peterhead

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE Premier Division: Gentoran v Citronvile, Linfeld v Coleraine; Newry v Crusaders: Omagh Town v Gieravon; Portadown v Balymena. Pirst Division: Bangor v Larne, Carnok v Ards, Dungannon Swifts v Distillery: Umavady Utd v Ballydae

LEAGUE OF WALES (2.30): Bangor City v Afan Lido, Caernarion Town v Haverfordwest; Conwy v Rhayader Town, Cwmbran v TNS: Holywell v Aberystwyth. Inter Cable-Tel v Newtown; Rhyl v Car-VARSITY MATCH: Oxford v Cambridge (1.0) (at Craven Cottage, Fulham). MONTAGUE UNDER-15 INTERNA-

TIONAL TOURNAMENT: England Cameroon (at Montague, Fr) RUGBY UNION 2 30 unless stated
TETLEY'S BITTER CUP
SEMI-FINALS
Richmond v Newcastle (2 30) ... ALLIED DUNBAR

Sale v London (rish (3.0) Sale v London (rish (3.0)
Premiership Tuno: Blackhenil v Leeds
(3.0): Bristol v Rugby (3.0): Coventry v Enter
(3.0): Moseley v Worcester (3.0). Orrell v London Welsh (3.0): Romertam v Fylde
(3.0): Valorielo v Wortenoo (3.0) y TEMSOM
NATIONAL LEAGUE One: Camberley v
Harrogate (3.0): Henley v Luerpool 5 rielens (3.0): Lydney v Rossym Park (3.0), Mortey
semingham/Solhuli (3.0). Nottingnam v
Wharfedale (3.0): Orley v Reading (3.0).
Tuno Nortic Aspatria v Sheffield (3.0). Nev
Brighton v Whitchurch (3.0): Nuneaton v

WEEKEND FIXTURE GUIDE AND POOLS CHECK Lichfield (3.0) Preston Grasshoppers v Hindsley (3.0), Stourbindge v Bendal (3.0): Walsall v Sedgley Park (3.0): Winnington Park v Sandal (3.0) Two South: Barking v, Redruch (3.0), Bridgware v Mer Poice (3.0): Chetenham v Havant (3.0), Clifton v Tabard (3.0), Esher v Noranch (3.0), North Walsham v Weston-sune-Mare (3.0): Porth Walsham v Weston-sune-Mare (3.0): Pro-

Foster's time of 21.81 sec-

mouth v Braknell (3 0).

TETLEY'S BITTER COUNTY CHARPHONSHIP North and Midlands League
Two: Northumberland v Durham (3 0) (at
Percy Park) North and Midlands
League Threet Leoestershire v Staffordshire (3 0) (at Systom), North Midlands v
Yorkshire (at Worcester) South League
Threet Kent v Hampsine (3 0) (at US
Chatham); Middless v Dorset & Wilks (3 0)
(at Richmond Athletic Gd)

WHE SH NATIONAL LEAGUE mouth v Bracknell (3 0).

WELSH NATIONAL LEAGUE Caerphilly v Ebbw Vale .

Neath v Pontypridd (5 30) Newport v Bridgend ... First Dhvision: Abernilery v Llandovery. Banymaen v LWIC (Cardiff Insti; Dunvant v Tredegar; Maesteg v Blackwood, Merthyr v South Wates Police, Newbridge v Cross Neys, Tondu v Rumney; Treorchy v Pontypnol ANGLO-WELSH FRIENDLY nsea v London Scottish

TENNENT'S VELVET CUP SEMI-FINALS Boroughmuir v helso (3 0) Gala v Melrose (3 0) TENNENT'S VELVET BOWL

SEMI-FINALS Corstorphine v Duns (3 0) Garnock v Edinburgh Univ (3 0) . TENNENT'S VELVET SHIELD Jed-Forest v Selkirk (3 0)

TENNENT'S VELVET PREMIERSHIP FIRST DIVISION Currie v West of Scotland (3.0) Watsonians v Hawick (3.0) Third Division: East Kilbride v Stewarts Mel FP (3.0). AIR LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION TOMORROW

> FOOTBALL SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE t Johnstone v Rangers (6.05) .. SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE Premier
> Division: Bristol MF v Elmore (3.0)
> MONTAGUE UNDER-15 INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT: England v Italy
> (12.45) (at Montague, Fr).

TETLEY'S BITTER CUP SEMI-FINAL Wasps v Gloucester (2.15) ANGLO-WELSH FRIENDLY West Hartlepool v Cardiff (3.0)

HOCKEY EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS' CUP A Division: Beeston v Ulle (Fr): Three Rock Rovers v Minsk (Bela) (or Amsteheen, Neth), C Division: Cardiff v Zehna (Croa)

Neth). C Division: Cardiff v Zehna (Croa) (at Iriglax. Sloven). EUROPEAN WOMEN'S CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP A Division: Slough v Den Bosch: Edinburgh Ladies v KTHC Rot Wess (Ger) (at Den Bosch, Neth). B Division: Swansea v Mortesama (Ita): Real Sociedad (Spn) v Pegasus (Iri) (at Martesama, Iti). EUROPEAN WOMEN'S CUP WINNERS' CUP A Division: Clifton v Vahorykste-Gartra (Lith); Glasgow Westem v Amsterdam (Neth) (at Terrossa, Sp) B Division: Nevrown v Old Alexandra (Iri) (at Rome). EASTER FESTIVALS: Weymouth 48th EASTER FESTIVALS: Weymouth 48th Blackpool 49th: English Riviera Festival (at

BASKETBÄLL **BUDWEISER LEAGUE:** Greater London

ICE HOCKEY SEKONDA SUPERLEAGUE Play-off harn or Bracknell (7.0) (at Mancheste

Evening News Areng).

UNDER-19 INTERNATIONAL: England v Scotland (3.0) (at Manchester Evening News Arena)

GOLF: Scottish champion of champion (or Leven links) MOTOR RACING: British Touring Car implanship (at Donington Park). British perbike Championship qualifying (at

OTHER SPORTS

SNOOKER: British Open (at Phymourh) TENNIS: Davis Cup World groups Britain y USA (at National Indoor Arena

MONDAY

FOOTBALL (See panel, Page 29)

RUGBY LEAGUE JJB SPORTS SUPER LEAGUE

Hutt v Sheffield (12 30) Leeds v London (3 0) St Helens v Bradford (3.0) Wakefield v Wigan (3.30) Viarnneton v Gateshead (3.0) ... NORTHERN FORD Premiership: Bar-row v Keighley (3.0). Dewsbury v Hull k R (3.0); Featherstone v Swinton (7.30); Oldham v Leigh (7.45); Whitehaven v Bat-ley (3.30); Widnes v Lancashire Lynu (3.0), York v Hunslet (3.0).

RUGBY UNION TETLEY'S BITTER COUNTY CHAMPLE

HIP North and Midlands Leagu One: Cumbria v Notts, Lincs & Derby (2.15) (at Carlisle). North and Midlands League Two: Cheshire v Lancashire (3.0) for New Brighton South League One: Gloucestershire v Surrey (3.0) fat Lydney).
South League Two: Berkshire v Sussex.

12.0 League Two: Berkshire v Sussex. (3.0) (at Bracknell). South League Four

WEDNESDAY'S LOTTERY UPDATE.

Draw date: 31/03/99. The winning numbers: 1, 5, 12, 24, 26, 38. Bonus number: 11. Total Sales: £28,136,774. Prize Fund: £12,661,548 (45% of ticket sales).

CATEGORY	NO. OF WINNERS	AMOUNT FOR EACH WINNER	TOTAL EACH TIER
Match 6 (Jackpot)	4	£892,449	£3,569,796
Match 5 plus bonus ball	20	£54,919	£1.098,380
Match 5	908	£756	£686,448
Match 4	36,967	£40	£1,478.680
Maich 3	579.655	£10	£5,796,550
TOTALS	617.554	T	£12.629,854
Camelol Group pk. Players must be 16 or ove		Breakage (pri	res rounded down to nearest £11. £31.6

Maybe, just maybe. ** THE NATIONAL LOTTERY In the escal of any discrepancy in the above, the data contained in Camelol central computer system shall prevail MAY Cricket World Cup begins Sky Sports 1, 2 and 3

JUNE Cricket World Cup Semi's and Final Sky Sports 1

JULY England v New Zealand 1st Test Live Sky Sports 1

AUGUST County Cricket Super **Cup Tournament** Sky Sports 1

SEPTEMBER Climax to National League Sky Sports 1 and 3

OCTOBER International cricket news Sky Sports News

> NOVEMBER South Africa v England 1st Test

DECEMBER South Africa v England 2nd and 3rd Tests Sky Sports 2

JANUARY South Africa v England 4th and 5th Tests Sky Sports 2

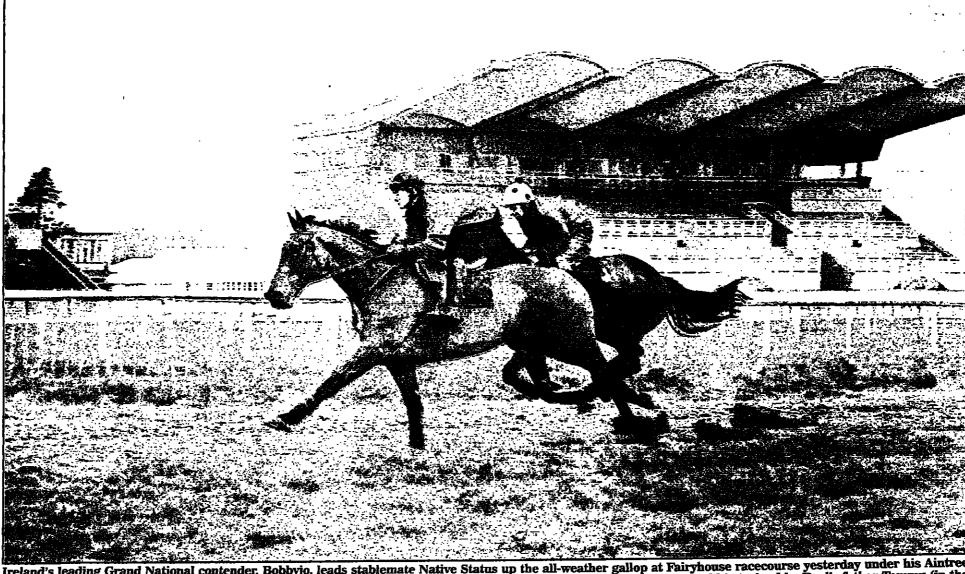


SKY SPORTS 1 SKY SPORTS 2 SKY SPORTS 3 SKY SPORTS

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NEWS

*Exclusively in digital with SkyDigital



Ireland's leading Grand National contender, Bobbyjo, leads stablemate Native Status up the all-weather gallop at Fairyhouse racecourse yesterday under his Aintree rider Paul Carberry. Bobbyjo, a best-priced 33-1 shot for next Saturday's big race, is in illustrious bands. The nine-year-old is trained by Paul's father Tommy (in the saddle on Native Status yesterday), who steered L'Escargot to a famous National victory in 1975

Alexis in the mood for Masaka

IF YOU are involved on the By RICHARD EDMONDSON Flat you have to enjoy this time of the year. It might be the only chance you get.

Early spring is when the pump inflates equine reputations around the country, and just after early spring is when a sparkling pin comes along and pricks most of them.

The poppings begin traditionally at Newmarket's Craven meeting, which starts on Tuesday week, although Haydock and Kempton hold the Flat fort this afternoon. There are televised races too from Towcester and, if you can get away with it, it is possible to watch nine contests from your lounge today at regular intervals, from 1.30 to

Haydock's card was abandoned 12 months ago, because of waterlogging, and the going will be soft this afternoon. It was in her juvenile season but now

heavy ground at Kempton last year, but at least they got the meeting on and were rewarded with some decent performers. Scorned won on that Sunbury card and he went on to be placed in three Group races and win Newbury's Listed Arc Trial.

The Masaka Stakes was collected by a horse that proved to be even better qualified. Richard Hannon's Tadwiga graduated to a Group Three event at The Curragh and added it to her list of accom-

Today's running of the Masaka features a filly who also made her name in Ireland but who now resides in the racing capital of Newmarket. Alexis was trained by Dermot Weld

gets her mints from Jeremy Noseda at Shalfleet on the Bury Road, the yard made famous by Paul Kelleway.

These must be exciting times for Noseda. who has packed six years with John Dunlop, five with John Gosden and two with Godolphin into his

RICHARD EDMONDSON Nap: Alexis (Kempton 3.40) **NB:** Perugino Bay (Haydock 2.30)

35 years. Now he is in his second season with a British licence and seeking to make an imprint. At present he is just trying to steady himself. "We're looking forward to the season. while mindful at the same time that anticipation doesn't win that. races," he says. "About 95 per

blown out of the water in the next six to eight weeks, so it's a time to stay realistic.

"I've been lucky enough to have been around a lot of very good horses and I recognise that ones like them are few and far between." Noseda recorded 19 winners

last season, a figure he regards with the archetypal trainer's lament. However, two of those successes were the Cheveley Park Stakes and Cherry Hinton Stakes in home town Newmarket, with the splendid filly Wannabe Grand. would have hoped to have more individual winners, but winning a Group One and a Group Two with her in my first year made me feel better." he says. "I would have settled for

to keep my feet on the ground. We'll make a decision about whether she runs in the Nell Gwyn in a week's time because

it's a question of a trial or going straight to the 1,000 Guineas. Touch wood, things have gone very smoothly with her." Before then, though, Nose-

da hopes he has another filly to light his qualities. ALEXIS (nap 3.40) is going well. "She's in good form and she's fit enough to do herself justice," the trainer says. "It looks like a pretty good contest, with a strong field of fillies. You can't nick races like this, even at this stage of the season. But everything has gone well and her preparation has been good.

"As with all fillies at this time of year, she'll look better and she will be better in a month's time, but she's well

cent of people's dreams will be dream too much because I like enough forward now to put in a good show."

Elsewhere on the Kempton card, Tumbleweed Quartet (4.10), who was last in the Racing Post Trophy on his final start last season, looks set to finish at the other end of the field. He won on his debut last

At Haydock there are possibilities about Samraan (1.30), who did not win last season, but has the best form in a race named after one of the most. beautiful settlements in the north-west. His trainer, John Dunlop, always has his horses well forward at the start of the season. One we know comes to hand early is Bryan McMahon's Perugino Bay (next best 2.30), and this appears an early reward for the hard and consistent labours of his two-year-

Four British runners in Irish Grand National

THERE WERE four British-ridden by Graham Bradley. trained runners among the 20 Kim Bailey has declared declared yesterday for the Irish Druid's Brook (16-1) and Philip Grand National at Fairyhouse Hobbs has engaged Brendan on Easter Monday Celtic Giant, Powell to ride Full Of Oats winner of the Kim Muir Chase at the Cheltenham Festival, is renew his association with Bob 7-1 second favourite to Manus Treacy (15-2), who has 11st The Man (13-2) with Stanley. 10lb. Papillon is the top weight Robbie Supple rides.

Rightsaidfred (14-1), trained by Anna Newton-Smith, will be Druid's Brook 10st 5lb.

(16-1). Norman Williamson will on 12st. Rightsaidfred has 10st 12lb, Celtic Giant 10st 9lb and

Addington Boy completed

his serious Grand National preparation with a schooling session at Middleham yesterday. Partnered by Adrian Middleham trainer said: "She Maguire, the 11-year-old jumped two replica National there with a view to running her fences twice.

The Toiseach will miss the Whitbread Gold Cup and will Love, who won the Cesarenot run again this season following a setback.

Mark Johnston's filly Atlantic Destiny is likely to reappear in the Nell Gwyn Stakes at Newmarket on 13 April The has done well and we'll go in the 1,000 Guineas."

Stable-companion Spirit Of witch, runs in the Sagaro Stakes at Ascot on 28 April.

Coral have broken new

Diamond Stakes. High Rise, the Eclipse Stakes winner, Daylami and Sagamix 8-1 co second favourites.

The Dubai World Cup winner ground by offering ante-post Almutawakel is on offer at 10-1 prices on the Ascot Gold Cup, alongside Sagamix. In the July the July Cup, and the King Cup, Diktat, Lujain and Stravin-George VI and Queen Elizabeth sky head Coral's list at 8-1, with Bianconi next best at 10-Royal Anthem is Coral's 5-1 1. Last year's Ascot Gold Cup favourite for the King George, winner, Kayf Tara, is the 5-1 with last year's Derby winner, favourite for this year's renewal, while Spirit Of Love is the 6-1 second favourite.

Other cards, page 24

TEAR-TALE ON QUEEN S

FIRST SHOW

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** *** ** ... Section 1

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TOWCESTER

2.20 Look Sharper 2.55 Damza (nb) 3.25 Unlathen 3.55 Bigwheel Bill HYPERION 4.25 Garethson 5.00 Bali Strong 5.30 Blue Royal

GOING: Good to Firm.

GOING: Good to Firm.

Right-hand, undulating circuit. Run-in of 140yd.

Right-hand, undulating circuit. Run-in of 140yd.

Course is on A5 SE of town. Bus service from Northampton station. ADMISSION: Members £13; Tattersals £9 (OAFs £5); Course £5. CAR PARK: Free.

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

ELEADING TRAINERS: D Nicholson 29-77 (37.7%), K Salley 13-54 (24.1%). Mrs J Pitman 12-51 (23.5%). Mrs C Balley 17-16 (58.5%). Miss V Williams 17-36 (30.6%).

ELEADING JOCKEYS: A Maguira 19-54 (23.7%), N Williamson 17-51 (27.9%), W Mirston 16-101 (15.5%). M A Fitzgerald 14-71 (18.7%), A P McCoy 14-72 (19.4%).

BEAUCHERTES: 19-0-80 (28.5%). TONGUE STRAP: Ghall (220), Demze (255), Liver Bird (425), Certey Led (425), Arif (530), Meltion Made (530), Despiter in Lew (530), Edition Made (530), Despiter in Lew (530), BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Salmon Breeze (425).

2.20 MATCH OF THE DAY LIVE EVENT MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS F) (DIV I) \$2,250 added 2m Penalty Value \$2,017

LOOK SHARPER holds Give Me Space on running behind Picket Piece at Chellenham in January and may prove the answer here. Trickly Trevor could prove ideally suited by this stiff 2m and rates an obvious danger.

2.55 TOTE BOOKMAKERS HANDICAP CHASE (D) £7,500 added 2m 110yds Penalty Value £5,381 67222 DAMZA (7) (U) (SP) (N D NESCRI) in monocol for the property of the poop, hopped steeres and cap 1-1,045 PARLIAMENTARIAN (SB) (CD) (J G M Yates) T Case y 10:09 . . . _ T J Murphy 5

FORM GUIDE FORM GUIDE
Gipsy Geoft Faded near line when back to form 2 lengths 2nd to Buckland Lad at Folicestone (2m hosp, good) off this mark. Stiffer course a worry but the one to beat Spanish Lights Fast-ground specialist on long losing run. Often finds little under pressure and first run since 23 lengths 4th of 6 to The Eens at Haydook in Now Mir Snagglet: Chance on 1/2 length 2nd to Ashwell Boy at Chepstow in Oct from 2th lighter, but risky jumper. In good form over hurdles tably and suited by fast ground Demzez: Catanok without production as to catanok without of the mark. Has a little to find but should be suited by this stiff finish and from yard back in form Perliamentarian: Three-time scorer last season, latest over this C&D from 4b lower. Plenty to find on latest 26 lengths 5th to Rovestar here, but yard back in form now Black Statement: Has not shown much since fortunate Windsor win in No 3rd to Oscali An Doras at Huntingdon latest and equally still task now

VERDICT: Gipsy Geof has been shaping like a future winner, but he struggled with the trip at Folkestone and will find this tougher. Despite his handy mark, he is passed over in favour of DAMZA, who should be sharper for his creditable 2nd to Clifton Beat at Warwick following a 2-month lay-off, He should relief his course and looks open to improvement. Mr Snaggle could also take a hand with a clear round.

3.25 HERMES HARVEST EMPRESS OF AUSTRIA OPEN HUNTER CHASE (H) £2,000 2m 6f Penalty Value £1,590

FORM VERDICT Liniathen has thrown away two winning opportunities with blunders at the lest fences this term and can herdly be backed with readment confidence, even in this company it could pay to take a chance on the fitness of ONE WORD, who did not do himself justice in novice chases last season, but is definitely capable of better.

3.55 KNIGHTS OF ARKLEY HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) 25,000 added 2m Penalty Value £3,829

BETTING: 11-4 Homme De Fes, 7-2 Rode, Bigwinesi Bill, 9-2 Mazdeo, 13-2 Dark Romence, 8-1 Shekels

FORM VERDICT POHM VEHDICT

Rolfe likes to cut out the pace, and he may set the race up for MAZILEO, another lean sort who might be better off on this occasion getting a lead from the Brookshaw horse rather than trying to take him on. Mazileo was having his first run in three months when beaten 5 lengths by Derik Romance at Sandown in February and is tanced to reverse the placings with that rival.

4.25 TOTE CREDIT CLUB HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £7,500 added 2m 6f Penalty Value £5,563

FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

Pennybridge: Irish-trained when scoring at Sedgefield and Antree last year. Weighted with chance and Ideely suited by fast ground, but 16-month lay-off a concern Shining Light: Leicester winner from 5th lower in Jan, but unrelable and refused at the last (well beaten at time) in Around The Gale's race at Sandown latest Capeniway: In handicapper's grip since timee early-season wins but signs of return to form last two starts. Back to latest wirning mark here, although best form at 2m4 Liver Bird: Thrown in here on close 3rd to Magical Appoach at Gowran Pkt 2m4 Liver Bird: Thrown in here on close 3rd to Magical Appoach at Gowran Pkt 2m4 Liver Bird: Thrown in here on close 3rd to Magical Appoach at Gowran Pkt 2m4 Liver Bird: Thrown in here on close sind to Elected 2m7 locap, heavy) on British debut last month. Acts on last going and probably worth another chance Salmon Breeze: Not progressing as expected since Folkeatione win in Dec and made hard work of beating Carlisle Bandicos at Doncaster/am nov, soft) latest. Stiff task on handicap debut and yet to race on fast ground
Bavard Discr. Useful in his prime, but has ahown fifth for some time and no sign of revival when 32 lengths 3rd to Coole Hill at Wincenton (3m11 hosp, good) last month. Stepeside Boy: Looked open to improvement when scoring at Windsor in Dec, but pulled up behind Looks Like Trouble at Sandown (3m hosp, good) on only start since.

pulsed up bearind Looks Line Iroucie at Sendown (3rt hicap, good) on only steril anise. Yet to race on a fast surface. Carley Lad: Much improved when beating Burnt Imp 2 lengths at Newcastle latest, from 5b lower. Has breathing problem and this stiff firsh not sure to suit Garanthison: C&D winner last term and will in with Capenwray on 1997-98 form, but jumping poorly recent starts and difficult to famoy. Deriver Bay: Far from the force of old, although hart of return to form when 11 lengths 3rd to Secret 5td at Folkestone last time. Hard to fancy from 6tb out of weights VERDICT: The handcapper has taken mency on CAPENWRAY and it may be worth taking a chance on his stamma now that Jeff King's team has rediscovered its form. He excels in his sort of company and is preferred to the well-handcapped Liver Bird - may need another race or two to recover her insh form for Venetta Williams - and the novices Stepaside Boy and Salmon Breeze, both open to improvement.

5.00 MEDIEVAL PAGEANT NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) \$3,000 added 3m Penalty Value \$2,793

5.00 E3,000 added 3m Penalty Value \$2,793

1 SOTOP BATH HOUSE BOY (28) (D) (Mrs Geother Churton H Daly 6 11 8 SWymne 2 5-3504 CALDAMAS (19) (BF) (F R Warwork) Mrs M Jones 7 71 8 A Maguire 3 4552 STEWARTS PRIDE (40) (CD) (S H Rier) S Brookeries 6 71 8 CEIGARD 4 CEZEM LORD OF LOVE (21) (Mouse Racing D Williams 4 11 6 B. B. CEIGARD 4 CEZEM LORD OF LOVE (21) (Mouse Racing D Williams 4 11 6 B. B. CEIGARD 5 24565 BALL STRONG (14) (FA Hubbard) G Hubbard 5 11 2 C Honosia (7) 00PG COOLAMBL (17) (Lady Arms Bertinch O Brannan 7 11 2 N Williamson 7 00PG COOLAMBL (17) (Lady Arms Bertinch O Brannan 7 11 2 Brannan DERRA GLEN (20) (The Dears Glen Permership) N Nicholon 6 11 2 G Brandley 3 -22F30 JUSTILCE ALDNE (64) (The Popper Parinership) N Nicholon 6 11 2 O McPhall (5) 10 JS-SPP STAY LUCKY (NC) (37) (Michel Buckley) N Henderson 10 11 2 Mich Pitzgerald 14840 THE GOOD KRIGHT (39) (Mrs Jane Lare) D Nicholon 7 11 2 Michel 12 CEAR 12 CEAR

FORM VERDICT

Doubts about several of these. Stouth-bred BALI STRONG is going the right way and is worth another chance, stepped back up in distance.

5.30 MATCH OF THE DAY LIVE EVENT MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS F) (DIV II) £2,250 added 2m Penalty Value £2,003

FORM VERDICT

FORM VERDICT
It is difficult to get away from SLUE ROYAL on the book, though the fact that he was pulled out at the eleverth hour when the ground turned firm at Newbury last weekend enters a coutlonary note Hurricane Jame is the logical each way elemative though Purple Ace, with the stable in good form, also makes some appeal on this basis.

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PUNTERS' GUIDE

Spunkie has scope to be a top stayer

Simon Holt of Channel 4

Racing analyses the Oueen's

Prize Handicap at Kempton

plenty of weight.

Spunkie: Highly progressive last year and a fine third to Spirit of Love in the Cesarewitch. Should go well again.

Prairie Falcon: Dual scorer at Haydock and Goodwood last September but then well beaten on soft ground.

Tarxien: Won three times in 1998 but at distances short of two miles. Honest sort who acts on any going.

Renzo: Successful over hurdles this winter having previously won on the Flat at Doncaster. Sometimes unre-

Far Cry: In fine form on the all-weather recently and continues to go from strength to strength. Stays well and hails from a good stable.

King Of Mommur: Third in two minor events last season but remains a maiden. Tries a new trip.

Benatom: Fair stayer on his Danegold: Becoming a proday. Fit from hurdling but lific winner on the level and hasn't won for a while and has over hurdles and again seems in very good form following his Doncaster suc-

cess last week.

Sea Freedom: Decent staving handicapper - could be spot on after his Doncaster fourth to Danegold last week. Royal Ascot winner in 1997.

Salaman: Very lightly raced nowadays and difficult to

Bridie's Pride: Gutsy frontrunner. Improved in 1998, winning at Ascot and sixth in the Cesarewitch. Still lightly weighted.

Yes Keemo Sabee: Possibly improving - a good second to Danegold at Doncaster last week - but still looking for his first victory.

Conclusion: SPUNKIE was easily the most progressive of these last year and could develop into a leading stayer this term. Sea Freedom, Danegold and Far Cry are others to consider.

HAYDOCK

1.30: Samraan would seem difficult to oppose with the weights in his favour, but the rain has turned the ground against him. The mud-loving RAISE A PRINCE can prove the better on this occa-

2.00: James Fanshawe will be keen to exploit the easy ground with GATECRASH-ER, who missed much of last season after getting jarred up on fast ground. He was on the upgrade when last seen in public and runs here in preference to the Rosebery at Kempton on Monday.

2.30: Bryan McMahon has his team firing on all cylinders, and the excellent performance of Yorkies Boy at Doncaster can be regarded as a good omen for PERUG-INO BAY, who was going the right way last backend.

TOWCESTER

2.55: Spanish Light will appreciate this sound surface, but Richard Guest can take this prize on DAMZA.

4.25: Capenwray has plenty of quality but there is just a 4.45: A first win at the 10th suspicion his stamina will be tested on this demanding track with the front-running Pennybridge in the field. GARETHSON has not sparkled this season but a solid performance over this trip here last May makes him

a tempting long-shot.

HYPERION'S

KEMPTON

TV TIPS

3.10: KUWAIT THUNDER was the only one of Kamil Mahdi's four runners at Doncaster who failed to win, but he showed enough to suggest a very bold show from his high draw here today.

3.40: A wide-open listed race can go to CAPE GRACE who has plenty of scope for improvement this season. Claxon is a filly with a future, but that will probably be over longer trips than this.

4.10: Raise A Grand has to concede 5lb all round and that should prove too much against TUMBLEWEED QUARTET, who was beaten by only a head and two lengths when he clashed with 2,000 Guineas colts Auction House and Commander Collins at Doncaster The selection's trainer, Brian Meehan, had two three-year-

old winners on Thursday.

attempt looked on the cards for YES KEEMO SABEE with a quarter mile to travel at Doncaster 8 days ago, but Danegold got to him close home. The positions can be reversed over this trip, with Benatom and Spunkie rating the main dangers.

10-YEAR-T	ΑL	Ε	ΟN	Q	IJΕ	Εľ	۱'S	P	RI	ΖE
	1989	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98
Fate of the favourities:	2	3	4-6-9	4	6-8	2	2	5	2-0	2-0
Winner's place in bettir	ig: 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
Starting-prices:	11-2	25-1	14-1	13-2	12-1	18-1	14-1	25-1	11-2	12-1
Winners' weights:	8.10	93	94	212	78	813	812	83	89	8.13
Winners' ages:	5	4	4	5	7	4	4	5	8	9
Wanners' ciraw:	2	4	15	7	9	12	Ħ	6	9	5
Profit or loss to E1 state	se: Far	vouril	2- as	10.00	Seco	and F	avour	ites -	£3.50	

Percentage of winners placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd in last race: 10% Shortest-priced winner: Double Dutch (1989) & Inchcalloch (1997) both 11-2 Longest-priced winner: Drumbeed (1990) & Wereplantainee (1996) both 25-1 Top trainer: No trainer has won this race more than once in the past 10 years Top jockey: No jockey has won this race more than once in the past 10 years

FIRST SHOW

KE	KP1	CON	4.	45	
	C	H	ĻL	S	Ţ
Sprakle	41	92	92	92	5-1
Denegald	4-1	5-1	92	11-2	6-1
Per Cay	11-2	51	6-1	5-1	92
Y Keesso Subse	7-t	8-1	11-2	6-1	64
Benatom	10-1	19-1	· 8-1	8-1	91
Stidle's Pide	10-1	91	. 9 -1	10-1	B-1
Sau Freedom	9-1	8-1	10-1	10-1	10-1
Renzo	12-1	12-1	12-1	12-1	9-1
Profile Felcon	91	12-1	14-1	10-1	10-1
Tacolon .	15-1	21	14-1	16-1	14-1
King Of Money	r 16-1	16-1	18-1	14-1	20-1
Salaran	40-1	40-1	25-1	40-1	33-i
Each-way o	gatr	fin ad	ds, plac	os 1, 2,	3
C Coral, H William	n HE, L	Lector	kes S	Stanley	Tible

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	Bluyq	114	52	94	52	11-4
	Robin Lane	5-1	11-2	5-1	11-2	114
	Galactester	6-1	61	7-1	7-1	11-4
ı	Chies Castio	6-1	5-1	7-1	6-1	15
	Hair	7-1	7-1	7-1	7-1	94
	Couldsed	9-1	8-1	. 7-1	10-1	7-1
ŀ	Hind A Minds	9-1	9-1	10-1	8-1	8-1
	Cugina	11-1	10-1	10-7	10-1	9-1
	Seconde Sa	91	11-1	12-1	10-1	9:
	Each-way	g Milit S	e odd	, place	1,2,3	
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HAYDOCK 2.00

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RACING :		
ก891 :	261	+1
<u> </u>		RESULTS
<u> </u>		021
<u>KEMPTON</u> HAYDOCK	972	982
TOWCESTER	973	983
NEWTON ARBOT	975	985
PLUMPTON	976	986.
ATT COURS	es resu	115

0891 261 970

TOW	CE	STE	R 4	.25	
	C	Ħ	L	8	
Submon Breeze	3-1	7-2	41	7-2	7-2
Liver Bird	72	7-2	92	103	92
Capeneraly	5-1	41	41	5-1	92
Sisperideboy	92	11-2	13-2	6-1	82
Carley Lad	6-1	13-2	7-1	6-!	11-2
Pennybridge ·	8-1	7-1	6-1	8-1	7-1
Caract City	20-1	161	121	15-1	20-1
Garefison	20-1	20-1	14-1	20-1	18-1
Statutory Light	16-1	20-1	16-1	151	16-1
Desirit Sty	26-1	22-1	16-1	20-1	20-1
Each way,	a 🖈 i	nê coditê	phoe	1,23	

The Tote bet on the 2.55 at Towcester: 5-2 špey Geof, 11-4 Demze, 3-1 Mr Smaggle, 11-2 variementarien, 8-1 Black Statement, 9-1 Spansh Light. Each-wey, a fifth the odds, places 1, 2

KEMPTON

HYPERION

2.15 Coco De Mer 4.15 Tumbleweed Quartet 2.45 Peace Of Mind 4.45 Yes Keemo Sabee 3.15 KUWAIT THUNDER (nap) 5.15 Invader 3.45 Cape Grace

GOING: Good (Good to Firm in places). STALLS; Straight course - far side; remainder maide.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: High numbers best for 51 & 61.

Right-hand course. Separate straight course for 5/ & 6/ races. Practically flat. Racecourse is on A308 at Sunbury. Bus link from Richmond Underground station Kampton Park railway station adjoins the course. ADMISSION: Club E16 (Juniors (17 to 21-year-olds £8); Grandstand £10; Saver Ring £5. Accompanied children under-16 free. CAR PARK: Members car park 25 ((imited and must be pre-booked). Centre car park

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS ■ LEADING TRAINERS: R Hannon 29-206 (141%), Sir M Stoute 16-82 (195%), H Cecil 13-60 (217%), J Dunico 12-99 (121%), P Cole 11-78 (141%), J Fanshawe 9-57 (158%). III LEADING JOCKEYS: Pat Eddery 31-164 (189%), J Reid 28-145 (183%), T Quinn 25-189 (132%), R Hughes 17-92 (185%), L Dettori 18-73 (215%), R Cochrane 14-110 (12.7%).

FAVOURITES: 130-406 (32%). TONGUE STRAP: King Of Mommur (445). BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Saafend Boy (205), Far Cry (445).

2.05	E.B.F. MILCARS WATFORD 25,000 added 2YO 5f Penal	MAIDEN STAKE Ity Value £3,469	S (CLASS
1	ARCADIAN CHIEF (M 2 Terlovski) K Ivory	90	Reid

ARCADIAN CHEEF (M 2 Terlowels) K Ivory 90
COCO DE MER (Ms J Greenacre) A Janvs 90D Sweeney
XCMSTE (Highclere Transagtbred Racing Ltd) G Laws 90
MASTER JONES (Maurice Parker) Mrs L Saubba 9 0
MA YORAM (USA) (Shekin Ahmed Al Makipum) M Channon 9 0 1 Datter!
MOUFFIN MAN (Ness D G Kerr) M Lister 9 0
MIAGARA (Miss D.) Merson) M Tompkins 9 0 S Drowne
SAAFEND BOY (J B R Lesure Ltd) R Hannon 90 Dane O'Nell 10 I
DAMASOURER (Mas. P / Westrook) T Powel 89
SIANTS MILLENHALISM (John Harris and Mrs Sen Herris) B Palling 8.9 G Faultiner (3):
- 10 dectared -

BETTING: 6-4 Ma Yorgan, 9-2 Ignits, 7-1 Coco de Mer, 8-1 Master Jones, 10-1 Seafend Boy, 12-1 Artadian Chief, Slan's Millennium, 14-1 others 1996: Champagne Rider 2.9 () J Reid 6-1 (K McAuliffe) drawn (3), 7 ran

FORM VERDICT

Ten newcomers, and gallops reports suggest that MA YORAM is the one to be on. despite the reverses Mick Channon has suffered with his juveniles so far. The stable's older horses are in good form. Coco De Mer could prove the pick of his rivals.

2.40 MILCARS STANMORE STAKES (CLASS C) £9,000 added 3YO 1m 2f Penalty Value £5,488 13143- MEDISTERTHETROXSTER (166) (RF) (M Burkets Settlement) T Easterby 9.7 ... K Fallon 3

3023- GLAMIS (USA) (174) (Shekir Mahammed) J Gosden 8 (3. L Dettori 5 1. J R STEVENSON (192) (R Sangster & BSangster) P Chapple-Hyam 8 13 ...J Fortune 4 31- PEACE OF MIND (194) (C) (K Abdulla) R Charlton 8 13. _ Pat Eddery 2 2- HELVETIUS (192) (Sheikh Mohammed Closid Al Makroum) C Brittan 8 10. . P Robinson 1 - 5 declared -

RETTING: 6-4 Glemic, 5-2 Peace Of Mind, 7-2 J R Survenson, 6-1 Minsterthetrisster, 14-1 Helvetius 1998: Scorned 3 9 4 S Whatworth 9-4 it lav (1 Balding) chawn (4) 4 ran FORM VERDICT

A good quality contest in which GLAMIS sets a useful standard on 2yo form. Much will depend on fitness, but Glamis has reportedly been pleasing at home so he gets the vote. (d be keen to give Mixterthetrixster a what sometime soon, but an 8to penalty is against him today, while Peace Of Mind is a good winner on this track and much

3.10 MILCARS RUISLIP HANDICAP (CLASS D) E6,000 added 3YO 6f Penalty Value £4,319 36511- ONES ENOUGH (159) (Heart Of South Racing (3)) G L Moore 9 7 M Roberts 13 76 dari, green, light blue diamond 031-33 PRINCE PROSPECT (42) (D) (Maurice Ferier) Mrs L Studos 94. . . Pat Eddery 9 100 red and light blue diamonds, red seeres, white spots, red cap, light blue spots

03163- ALASTAIR SMELLIE (170) (D) (W J Gradey) 8 HBs 9 4

velicus, black and velicus striped steeves, white cap 1040. CHARLENE LACY (258) (Mrs Arm Jerve) A Jerve 95 black, emerals; green seams, and cap 3543-3 KUNWAIT THUINDER (7) (BIF) (Greenfield Stud) k Mahdi 9 1 dark green, yellow sash, white slavers, yellow and dark green quartered cap 052- CANDLERIGGS (155) (Tre Sight Angle Cup) € Duniop 9 1 K Fallon 4 90 rea, white sizes on siees 85 4538-0 CLEAR NIGHT (8) (J.A Lazzari) R harmon 90. . patik, 3623k (680, 301+ 530% 0010- KILMEENA LAD (148) (D) (155 J A Castry) E (theeler 9 0 ... S Carson (5) 8 76 WELLEN COST STATE SOMES WITH COST AND STATE WAS MADE IN STATE 640-6 MIDHISH TWO (30) (D) 12 Motor, Was a Cowley! F Microel 8 G . 033-0 GOLDEN FORCE (7) (George E.K. Teo) F. Harriot 8 13 P Dobbs (7) 6 91 red, light blue saish, hooped seeves, queriered cep 4008- CAPPELLA (196) France Transactoreds (1) R Harmon 8 11 Dane O'Neill 11 82

180. red 022. purple 628 12 2810- RANAAN (100) (Altred Al State) M Charron 6 II. yellow, royal blue charton, chartons on pleases, yellow cap, royal blue stars 10550- SWEET AS A NUT (187) (Nasses House Racing) C Dayer 8 Ti . J Weaver 14 92 partic, light thine seat, quartered cap . W J O'Connor 7 50 0000- LA PAOLA (171) (G Exercit) E Median 86 _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ ... white, red hoops, dark green sleaves, red cap – 14 declared –

Kırmalt Thunder, 12-1 Clear Night, Cappella, La Paola, 14-1 others 1998: Dam Dax 3 & 12 K Fallon 16-1 (3 Pažina) dravn (14) 19 radi

FORM GUIDE Ones Enough: Improved in autumn to win Folkestone maiden (good to firm) and Lingfield conditions stakes (heavy). Those were over 5t, but he probably stays 6l Prince Prospect: Some chance on 2yo but form, but main claims on 6! Lingfield AW efforts, winning a maiden and good third off a higher mark than this in hand-

Alastair Smellie: Won maiden at Ayr (soti) and third of 15 in Newmarket nursery both 6. Often snaped as it capable of better (travelled well). Gelded over the winter Charlene Lacy: 1998 Brocklesby winner. Three other races at 5t, ending with 14th of 19 in Super Sprint at Newbury in July. Doubts over whether she will be effective

Kuwali Thunder: Fayounte (stable in fine form) when third of 14 to Kentucky Bullet at Doncaster (7), good to soft) week ago, Decent draw and 6) should be no problem Candleriggs: Probably needs to improve, but did progress in maidens as 2yo, fifth of 15 at York and 5 lengths second of 16 to Zippergate at Newmarket (both 6t, good) Clear Night: Bang in the reckoning on his third of 22 to Maple at Newbury (6t, good). Type to train on and looks a sprinter, so less two efforts (over 71) probably forgiven Kilmeena Lad: Hung badly 2nd start. 50-1, won 15-runner maiden at Newbury (6). heavy) 10 days later by 31/. lengths. Excuses final start. First run on a sound surface Midhlish Two: Trained by Michael Stoute as 2yo, going downhill after win in 5-runner maiden at Newcastle (61, heavy). Last of 6 (disputed lead) on AW debut for new

,---Golden Force: Promising efforts in two 61 madens on sound surface lest July. First run since and edgy, well beaten at Doncaster last week. Bred to stay beyond 6f Cappella: 1b higher than when winning 5-runner nursery at Sandown (\$1, good to firm) in August. Disappointing in nurseries afterwards and possibly none too reliable Rangen: Promise in two events on soft surface before winning 13-hunner AW maid-en at Wolverhampton (5f) from poor draw. Poor effort at Linglield. Has potential Sweet As A Nut: Three 51 wins as 2yo, last of them in 6-runner nursery at Doncaste (firm). Little impact in nursenes afterwards, including over 6t, but well drawn here la: Fair 5t form (good) for win in Sandown malden, making most, and secand in Brighton nursery. No comparable form over 6f before that and on soft after VERDICT: A high draw is often an advantage and the most interesting contained near the far rail is RANAAN, who looked promising when winning on his AW debut and had shown enough beforehand to demand respect on this return to turf. Kuwali Thunder ran well last week, Cappella is talented on her day and Kilmeena Lad should not be underestimated. Clear Night will come good one day but is drawn 3.

3.	40	MILCARS MASAKA STAKES (Listed) (CLASS A) £20,000 added 3YO fillies 1m £13,515
1	10500-	LADY ANGHARAD (175) (Ambrose Turrbull) A Jarvis 8 11
2	214-	ALABAC (USA) (188) (Hamdan Al Maksoum) J Duniop 8 8
3	31434	ALEXIS (182) (J G Davis) J Noseda 6 8 L Dettorf 6 94 pirt. black chevrons, pink sleeves, white cap
4	126-	CAPE GRACE (168) (George Strawbridge) R Hamnon B 8
5		CLAXON (172) (D) (Hesmonds Suct) J Duniop 8 8
6	82221-	KALIDASA (USA) (190) (R E Sangsier) P Crappie-Hyam 8.8
7	13343-	MISS UNIVERSE (161) (from Mrs. J.M. Corbett & Mr. C. Wright) B Hills 8.6M. Hills 3.111 royel blue, siver strong sherves, red and royel blue hooped cap
8	(36-	SENA DESERT (188) (Mohamed Obacia) C Britism 8 8

- 8 declared -BETTING: 5-2 Miss Universe, 3-1 Kalidasa, 5-1 Cape Grace, 7-1 Alexis, Cizzon, 8-1 Alabaq, 12-1 Lady Anchered, 20-1 Sena Desert

Tackinga 3 8 8 J Reid 7-2 ji lav (R Hennon) drewn (1) 8 ran FORM GUIDE

Lady Angharad: Useful as 2yo, winning 6t listed race and 7t auction stakes. Highly tried after, about 5 lengths seventh of 10 in May Hill at Doncaster (tim, good to soft) Alabaq: By Riverman out of Salsabil. Followed odds-on maiden win (7), good) with 9% lengths fourth of 8 to Sunspangled in Group 1 Filies' Mile at Ascot (tim, soft).
Alexies Trained as 2yo by Dermot Weld, winning at Galway (7f), in frame in two listed races before 2 lengths touth of 9 in Group 3 at the Curragh (7t, soft). Will stay I'm Cape Grace: 33-1 winner of newcomers race at Ascot (6l, good) by short head from Circle Of Gold, 51/- lengths sorth of 14 in the Group 3 Rockfel Stakes at Newmarket (7t, good) final start. Type to train on well and will be suited by at least 1m

Ctaxon: Scopey fifty by Caerleon. Placed in listed race and conditions stakes at New bury (7t sound surface) before winning Ayr maiden (Im, heavy). Bred to stay 1m2(+ Kalidess: Made most when 21/1 lengths second (also runner-up 3 times previously) of 10 in Group 3 May Hill at Doncaster (tim. good to soft). 2-5, won Warwick maiden Miss Universe: Won her maiden before useful form in frame in two Group events (2 lengths fourth in the Cheveley Park), a nursery and listed race. Bred to stay Im Sens Desert: Well-bred, attractive filly 25-1 third in Lecester maiden (fm, good) be-fore apparently much better 14 lengths south of 8 at 50-1 in Fillies' Mile at Ascot (soft) VERDICT: John Dunlop has a strong entry with Alabaq and CLAXON, the latter getting the vote because of her considerable potential as a 3yo. Miss Universe, Kall and Alexie all warrant a close look after their efforts in Group races. In tact, there is not much between the entire field on form. Sense Desert apparently having most to find, but even a typical Cave Brittain surprise from that filly cannot be ruled

4.10 MILCARS EASTER STAKES (Listed) (CLASS A) \$220,000 added 3YO 1m Penalty Value \$13,810 TORS. RAISE & GRAMD (168) (Namy Azzel J. W Payne 8-13

'	III D-	NAMES A GRAND (100) (1983) AZZI (17 PAVID O C	
		dark green and light blue stripes, dark green and white striped (
2	12314-	COMPTON ARROW (154) (E Perser) G A Butler 8 8	L Dettori 8 96
3	01-	CONFLICT (FR) (172) (Shekh Marwan Al Maktoum) C Brittain 8 8 white, sight blue chevron, light blue and white shipped cap	P Robinson 11 102
A	30-	DBHOUSH (USA) (186) (Shekir Ahmed Al Makitoum) A Stewart 6 I yellow, black eparties:	3M Roberts 2 102
ě	-12(H-	FAIR FLIGHT (169) (D) (knalls Sultan) E Duniop 8 8 write, red epawets striped siecves and cap	. K Fallon 1 108
6	406-	1.DUGH SWILLY (175) (John C Grant) B HRs 8.8 yellow and white (halved), halved skeves, quartered cap	. Pat Eddery 9 82
7	ù31·	PECULLARITY (178) (D) (The Family Parmersho) 5 Smart 8 8 (2m) blue and white diamonds, yellow Serves, dish blue cap	.) Stack 7 97
6	11664-	TAYIL (186) (Hamdan Al Makiqum) J Dunlop 9 8 . royal blue, white epaules, striped cap	. R Hills 4 109
9	1336-	TUMBLEWEED QUARTET (161) (furtheweed Parinership) B Meetan 8. maroon grey triple diamond, diamonds on sleeves, diamond on	
10	3435-	WALLACE (206) (J.A. Lazzani) R Hannon 5.8 pmi, black car, pmk spots	R Hughes 3 101
Ti	013-	ZIPPERGATE (137) (W.J. Gredley) B HBs 8 8	M Has 6 104

BETTING: 5-1 Candleriggs, 6-1 Alastatr Smedie, 7-1 Prince Prospect, Ransan, 8-1 Ones Enough.

BETTING: 4-1 Tumbleweed Quartet, 5-1 Rylise & Grand, 6-1 Fair Flight, 7-1 Compton Arrow, Dehoush, Taylii, 10-1 Zippergate, 12-1 others 1998: Knspy knight 3 5 8 R Hills 6-1 (J Hills) brawn (2) 4 ran

FORM GUIDE

Raise A Grand: Improved very well as 2 to third win coming in Group 3 at Sandown (7), good to firm). 41/4 lengths fifth of 7 to Mulahid in the Group 1 Dewhurst at

on Arrow: Sort to do better this term, and won twice (over 67) as 2yo. 3 lengths fourth of 9 to Gorse in conditions stakes at Newmarket (6t good to soft) final start Conflict: Warning colt. 11, won 7-runner conditions stakes at Leicester (7t good to soft) by neck from Elm Dust. Will stay 1m. Again has to improve marketily Dehicustr: All three races at Newmarket, getting up close home in 61 maiden. 2 lengths third of 6 to Commander Collins in 71 listed race (again slowly-run) before ninth of 25 m valuable sales race nearly three months later. Will stay im. Still has potential Felf Flight: Won 17- and 20-runner races for nursenes at Goodwood (7, good) and Newmarket (im. good to firm; off 92). Something amiss penultimate outing Lough Swilly: Bit to find on form as 2yo, when won auction stakes at both Nottingham (6), good) and Goodwood (7), good to firm). Solt ground was excuse for final start Peculiarity: Big step up in class, but was third in a hor malden at Kempton and quite impressive when winning 25-numer maiden at York (im, good) from Regal

Privit: Shift of 7 in two Group 3 races before 31/Liengths tourth of 28 to Maidaan in valuable sales race at Newmerket (7t good). Bred to be suited by further than this Tumbleweed Quartet: 21/Liengths third of 8 to Auction House and Commander Colins in Group 2 at Doncaster (7t, good). Soundly beaten in Racing Post Trophy final outing Wallaces: Third in two 71 maidens, with 41/Liengths fourth of 7 in York listed race in between. Disappointing final start. Will stay 7m. Type to Improve, and has a "Superposter Farm price best Conditions" 5 Sentitive of 35-union markets. Zippergate: Favourite, best Candlenggs 5 lengths in 16-runner maiden at Newmarket (6t, good). Third of 8 in listed race at Massone-Laffitte (6t, soft). Bred to stay Im VERDICT: On form, this appears to be between RAISE A GRAND and Tumbleweed Cuartet, both of whom were tested in Group 1 events on their final starts last item. There is little between them, and several of the others have potential to get in the argument as well, including Compton Arrow, Dehoush and Wallace.

4.45 MILCARS QUEEN'S PRIZE HANDICAP (CLASS C) £15,000 added 2m Penalty Value £10,504

1	3/308- BENATON (USA) (J37) (D) (Londaho Stud) D Elsworth 6 10 0	L Dettori 1 10
2		46.
2	5613- SPUNKIE (168) (D) (Jim Short) R Johnson Houghton 6 9 7	K Falson 3 8
_	royal blue and white stripes, white steeves, royal blue armies, royal blue and w	hite hooped cap
3	31100- PRAIRIE FALCON (161) (Mrs B W His) 8 His 594	M Halle 69
	light blue, white epocieta, armiels and cap	
4	05004 TAPOSEN (323) (F.J. Sainsbury) Mrs M. Jones 5 9 4	J Weaver 9 9
	yellow, emerald green diamond, emerald green diamonds on yellow sleev	
5	02501- RENZO (J16) (C) (D) (Clearthern Ltd) J L Hams 693	
	red, black sash, while sleeves, red stars, black and red hooped o	
8	11-131 FAR CRY (21) (D) (W E Sturt) Str M Prescott 4 9 1	
	dark blue and white check, dark blue steems, white cap, dark blue	
7	03630- KING OF MOMMUR (253) (Three Bears Racing) B Meehan 4 8 9	_Pat Eddery 12 9
	royel blue, large yellow spots, amiles and spots on cap	
8	160-1 DANEGOLD (5) (D) (Circular Distributors Ltd) M Chennon 7 6 J.	
	white, royal blue disc, royal blue steems, white armists, light blue and whos	
8	0004-4 SEA FREEDOM (8) (Mes B Sweet G Baiding 6.6 7	S Drowne 5 9
	Plac, 1769 quariered cap	
10	30/30- SALAMAN (PR) (J15) (D) (Greham Pasquill) D (Parien 7 7 t)	R Firench 10 9
	royal blue and red diabolo, red sleeves, white cap	
11	20362- BRIDIE'S PRIDE (147) (D) (K C White) G Ham 8 7 12	G Bardwell 4 9
	red, white triple diamond, black sleeves, red armies and diamonds on l	Macil cap
12	-52292 YES KEENIO SABEE (8) (lan Guse) D Shaw 4 7 ft	d Quinn 8 9
	light green and red chack, red siseves, fight green armies, and c	80

ight green and red check, red sleaves, fight green armies and cap — 12 declared — 12 declared — 12 declared — 12 declared — 18 first Cry, 5-1 Spunkie, 6-1 Danagoid, flos Kosmo Sabee, 8-1 Bridia's Prida, 9-1 Benatom, Renzo, 10-1 Prainte Felcon, Sea Freedom, 14-1 Tanden, 25-1 others 1998; Nor's Flutter 9 8 13 N Polland (7) 12-1 (D Esworth) drawn (5) 13 ran

FORM GUIDE

Benatom: Couple of decent efforts (notably on neappearance) over 1m6f off 1 lb higher last season. Return to 2m should suit him. Fit from hurding, Stable won this last year Spunkles, has the most potential, his only two runs at 2m+ on Fila being handcap debut win at Ascot and third of 29 in the Cesarewitch (2m2t, good) at Newmarket Pretrie Falcon: 9th in 1997 Evor was only previous attempt beyond 1m4 ground handicaps last term over 1m2 1/s at Haydock and 1m4f at Goods Tanden: Progressed well for three wins at around imbi last summer, but went the wrong way afterwards. Has since left Karl Burke and had a warm-up over hurdles Renzor Often disappointing, but won first outing for this yard at Doncaster (2m, good to soft) and also made good start to hurdles career. Has gone backwards again since For Cry: His only two runs on turl were over 1m and 51 in August. Has won five of 7 starts on AW since, from 1m4f to 2m. In the shake-up of he can transfer that AW

King Of Mommur: Handicap debut, apparently stiff task. Hampered only previous nun beyond 1m4f (stayers by this are are almost unheard of). Blinkered final 3yo start Danegold: Hit rich vein of form last autumn and back to form to win at Doncaster Can2l, good to soft) last week. 5th ingher now, and risgness mark for nearly 2 years. Sea Freedom: Thorough stayer, but still a rare winner. Needed the run when fourth in the 12 months ago, but this time has had a warm-up. Back to last winning mark Salaman: Accomplished little only two runs on Flat last two seasons (dropped 10th since latest). Modear staying hurdler who ran well enough in March latest start Bridler's Pride: Won at Ascot (2m, good) last June. 41b higher now after some good Yes Keema Sabee: Meiden, but in good form following second of 8 (effectively of this mark) to Danegold at Doncaster (2m2f), when looked the winner over 21 out VERDICT: Spunkle is not ruled out lightly, but this may prove an insufficient test of stamina, a remark which also applies to Sea Preedom who made a satisfactory reappearance last week behind Danegold and Yes Keemo Sabee. On revised terms and over a 2's horter trip, Yes Keemo Sabee may well emerge best from that trip but he is unproven on this faster ground. Far Cry is rated on his AW form, but was a most progressive stayer in that sphere, while BENATOM is the other one who catches the eye, suspping back up in trip after an encouraging run over hundles last month.

5.20 MILCARS TEMPLE FORTUNE HANDICAP (CLASS D) 25,250 added 3YO 1m 1f Penalty Value £3,826

1	33148	INDUCEMENT (177) (W.J. Gredey) B Hills 97
2	22314-	DEPLOY VENTURE (169) (Dr Frank S 8 Chao) S Woods 9 5 J Reid 5
3	325-	LUCKY GITANO (158) (SE) (Anamone List) J Duniop 94 Pat Eddary 7
4	630-	QUICKSTEP (198) (Lady Termant) R Harmon 9 4 Dane O'Neill 11
5	0044-	INVADER (165) (Shekir Mohammed Obaid Al Mai/tourn) C Prittan 9.2 P Robinson 3
6	3633-	NATALIE JAY (172) (Peter Jollete) M Channon 9 5
7		PLURALIST (231) (The Paraist Partnersho) W. Jarvs 6 13 M. Tehbusi 14
6	20661-	ROUTE SD(TY SIX (163) (J B R Lessure Ltd) G L Moore 8 t3 M Roberts 8
9	000-	TACTFUL REMARK (USA) (157) (Shekh Morammed) J Gosden 8 19 L Dettori 13
T)	0550	SONG 'N DANCE MAN (169) (Schmott-Sooner) J Noseda 8 19 G Conter 4
Ħ	13-	BOB'S PRINCESS (192) (Mrs J E L Winght) P Channings 8 TI
12		CALLDAT SEVENTEEN (35) (Keeth Harrison) P DArcy 8 B D Hayden (7) 12
13		PADHAMS GREEN (180) (D.) Anderson M. Tomplans 8 d
14	2650-	PAS DE PROBLEME (147) (Captain France Burne) M Blanchard 8.6 J Quinn 10
		- 14 declared -
DETT	ING: 7.5	Therbit Demusic 7.1 Leader Citano Calletet Samottoon 8.1 Daniew Ventura 1/L1 fr

FORM VERDICT

A typically difficult three-year-old handicap, where those with form are potentially vul-nerable to less exposed types who have something to prove PLURALIST gets the vote in the belief that he is weighted to win a tair handicap, and in the hope that he'll stay the timit in pulmousement and Deploy Venture are solid alternatives, while Tactful Remark and Song 'N Dance Man are two to note in the market.

HAYDOCK

4.15 Nifty Major

4.45 Windshift

2,15 Raise A Prince 2.45 Gatecrasher 3.15 Perugino Bay GOING: Soft (Good to Soft in places)

5.15 Compatriot

STALLS: 71 - inside; 5t, 1m2! & 1m4! - outside; 2m - centre. DRAW ADVANTAGE: None. Enamed High one course: straight 6f course.

■ Course is near junction of AS80 and M6, Newton station 2m. ADMISSION: County Tattersalis £10; Newton Stand £5 (OAPs half-price in Tattersalis and New

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

LEADING TRAINERS: J Duniop 27-101 (26.7%), B Hills 24-94 (25.5%), J Gosden

20-96 (20.8%), H Cacil 19-45 (c/%), J Berry 15-186 (g/%), P Chapple-Hyam 13-51 (25.5%)

LEADING JOCKEYS: Pat Eddery 27-33 (29%), W Ryan 18-73 (24.7%), J Reid 18-85

(21.2%), K Pallon 18-114 (15.3%), J Weaver 17-99 (17.2%), J Carroll 17-176 (9.7%)

FAVOURITES: 203-572 (355%).
TONGUE STRAP: Raise A Prince (1.30), Larimar Bay (4.00).
BLINKERED PIRST TIME: None.

1.30 CHEADLE HULME STAKES (CLASS B) £13,000 BBC1 added 2m 45yds Penalty Value £7,701 OTISA RAISE A PRINCE (FR) (147) (George Tong) S Woods 6 9 1 dark blue, yellow hoched sleeves, dark blue can, yellow sputs O'TIG- LOVENAN (USA) (LTGB) (T R Pryke) N (Angen 5 9 0 ... 2215- MARDANI (188) (Marios Graff) M Jorreston 4 8 2 ... J Carroll 5 91 royal blue, writer sport, whos selectes, royal blue armites and spots on what cap 20053- SANRAAN (USA) (182) (K M Al-Muchali J Dunlop 6 8 7 ... T Quanto 2 116

royal blue, royal blue and white discholo on sleeves, royal blue cap, white star

- 5 declared -BETTIMG: evens Samman, 9-4 Raise & Prince, 13-2 Mardani, 7-1 Lovernan, 25-1 Travelling Clock FORM GUIDE

Raise A Prince: First-tyttle winner last term, Career-best effort to beat Yavana's Pace at Ascot in Sept (1m4f heap soft), but more to find and unproven at this trp.

Lovemen: Winner twice over 1m4f in France for Nicholas Clement. Bought for 12,000 gns before Musselbugh hurdles win in Dec Looks to have piertly on hi Mardanit Minor Irish warner for John Oxor before firestring 5th in valuable conditions contest in Switzlerland in Sept. Trying new prip and interesting prospect for new yard Sastraans Form pick on head 2nd to Persian Punch at Sandown (2m. good) last May but just one win in 2 years. Weights pick, goes well fresh and from yard in form Travelling Clock: Cut little ice in 3 outings last term and up in grade here

VERDICT: This should be a formality for SAMRAAN on his best form of last term. and even this unreliable customer will find it difficult to duck the issue in company far inferior to that he usually faces. Raise A Prince is getting long in the tooth to be trying a new trip, and the danger to the Dunlop stayer could come from the lightlyrecod Mardani, whose new trainer often does well with recruits from other ya

2.00 TOTE LADY IN RED HANDICAP (CLASS C) BBC1 61-012 WEET-A-MIREUTE (21) (EIF) (Ed Weetman) R Hodershead 6.9 ti) . N Callen (5) 9 109 red, white cach, royal blue sleaves, white armige, red and white strond cap partic. HAJR (200) (D) (Maidoum Al Maidoum) E Dunlop 5 9 10 K Danley 6 62 oval blue, white chanton, light blue cap, white star

20642- BLHAYO (175) (D) (Hamban Al Makeum) J During 498. . mel blue, white enguless, strined can 40011 - ROBIN LANE (181) (D) (NES G Modebrook) M. Johnson 4 9 8 D Holland 5 106 grey, royel blue seams, sleeves and cep 0x00- CUGINA (175) (Mss 3 Seire) G Basing 5 9 5 East, mass quariered cap 2490 - COULTHARD (J21) (R Easter) Mis P Sty 590 A Cufrane 3 106 yellow, black seemes 612- GATECRASHER (240) (BF) (J M Greefram) J Fanshawe 4.8 m . R Cochrane 1.100 cross bels, halved sin 20303 STEAMROLLER STANLY (12) (D) (Nigd Sheics) K Biche 6 7 3 F Norton 4 109 arous on present the property of the control of the

FORM GUIDE Weet-A-Minute: In good form on A-W lately but without a win on furl for 4 years.

Numerous chances off this sort of mark last season and looks vulnerable to improver Hajir: Narrow Epsom winner over Sabadilla from 5th lower last June, but sidelined since Royal Ascot same month. Best efforts on fast round and up against it Ethayg: Capable of scoring off this mark on 2nd to Robin Lane at Ascot in (\$m4) hoap soit) in Oct. Early sort and goes well on soft, but could find trip on sharp side Robin Lane: Five-time winner last term, latest by a length from 6tb lower. 9th worse off with Ethayg for % length on previous Ascor form (soft) and could stuggle Cugina: Well weighted on 3% length win over Secret Ballot at Sandown in June and aces well in mud. Needed her first outing less lerns, but stable in betier form this year Coulthard: Unlucky 2nd in Imperial Cup Hurdle last month. Needs to improve on Flat career-best 6th to Labeq at Doncaster (1m2f hcap.good) last June to figure here Gatecrasher: Leg trouble and gelded since : length 2nd to Up At The Top over Im2f here last August. Possibilities oil the same mark, but extra 2f a concern China Castle: Class act on A'W with seven wirs this year (rated 216 lower here). Well below this standard when lest raced on turi in 1996 and difficult to assess Steampiler Staniv: Smart AW performer although 23lb behind China Castle on lat est running. Cut little ice on juri last season for Charles Cyzer and hard to tancy here VERDICT: ELHAYQ looks the weights pick on his backend form and could keep the John Dunlop bandwagon rolling with the ground in his favour ideally, an extra 21 would sur, but resting ground should help his cause. Cuglina, whose yard is already off the mark is a very interesting candidate, while Gatecrasher (runs here in pref-

2.30 FIELD MARSHAL STAKES (Listed) (CLASS BBC1 A) £20,000 added 3YO 5f Pen. Val. £13,745 rayal clue and white check, whate sleaves and cap

m K Darley 5 100	1120- BON AMI (208) (D) (K T Work) J Berry 8 TI	21120	
	yearow, whate hoop and armiets whate		
	540- HENRY HALL (175) (D) (J M G Promotions I	T540	•
	emerald green, white disc, emerald gre		
	832: PERLIGINO BAY (161) (D) (J C Fretwell) & A	30332	
	black and red jouantered), black sizeves, red		
Agenan 8 tt D Holland 4 101	2 SUSAN'S PRIDE (7) (Mrs Susan Roy: 3 Med	2	
	black, reg stars, armiets		
oniEAlston 85 J Carroll 3 101	1966 - DAMALIS (198) (D) (Lam & Tony Ferguson)	3466	
	royal thus and red smites, red a		
C Booth 86 A Cultrane 1 121	550- SAPHIRE (196) (D) (Mrs Manan Rogers) C 9	32550	•
lets, hooped cap	meuve, white asc and armed		

BETTING: 2-1 Perugino Bay. 4-1 Damalis. 6-1 Bon Ami. Saphire. 7-1 Inya Lake, Henry Hali, 10-1

FORM GUIDE Inya Lake: Improved from Doricaster seller win to land Goodwood group 3 last seeson. Big task at weights and rails draw could be a handicap to this fast finisher

Bon Ami: Three-time scorer last term including useful Ripon conditions contest. Appeared more effective at 6t in late season and plenty to do with step up in grade Henry Half: Three-time winner last term. Closely weighted with trya Lake and Perugino Bay on Goodwood group 3 form in July but looks the sort to progress Perugino Bay: Form pick on 2 / length 3rd to Pipalong at Redcar (6f) in Oct, giving 5tb. and neck 2nd to Two Clubs at Doncaster (61) Acts on easy surface and will go close if he can handle drop back in trip. Stable already off the mark Susan's Pride: Promising debut when beaten 2 lengths by Present Laughter at Warwick (5), soft). Should be better suited by this straight track, but big step up in class Damails: 6 lengths 4th to Birt Allavi at Royal Ascot and closely weighted with Perugino Bay at Ripon (51) Ideally suited by soft ground and from a yard in good form Saphire: Consistent sort who holds a bright chance on her 2% length 3rd to Flanders at Royal Ascor. Most effective at 51 and acts on soft, but poorly drawn

VERDICT: Paragino Bay was still progressing at the end of last season, but that was at 6t and over this minimum trip the answer could be DAMALIS, who is favoured by the weights and has the easy ground she needs. Tedburrow's Doncaster win showed that the Aiston springers are right on song Saphire also well weighted, is unlikely to be far away but could be handscapped by starting on the wing of the field.

3.00 HAYDOCK PARK SPONSORSHIP CLUB MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES (E) £3,500 added 2YO 5f Penalty Value £2,828 0 HEATHYARDS LAD (9) (L. A Morgani R Hollinshead 86. A Cultiane 11 NEFTY MAJOR (Floy Peebles) J Berry 8 6.... K Darley 6 O POWER AND DEMAND (7) (J.C. Fretwell) D Straw 8 6..... ._ J Fanning 5 PIPADASH (Mrs M H Easterby) T Easterby 8 1 ______ L Charmock 10

O SHOULDHAVEGONEHOME (7) (Men Behaving Bacty) P Evans 7 12. . . C Cogan (7) 4

3 TOP OF THE CLASS (8) (B & J Racing) M Water 7 12 F Norton 2 BETTING: 11-4 Nitty Major, 7-2 Xenos, 6-1 Top of The Class, 7-1 Willrack Times, 8-1 Pipadash ctshome, 16-1 Heathyards Lad, Power And Demand, Shaw Venture, Tara's Girl,

FORM VERDICT

Previous expenence earns TOP OF THE CLASS preference, though the defeat of the Brocklesby runner-up Lord Bankes at Musselburgh suggests it was no more than an average renewal of the Doncaster event. The Brocklesby winning stable is represented by a speedly-bred type in Willrack Times and she, along with Nitty Major, could be the pick of the newcomers.

3.30 WELCOME BREAK GROUP RATED HANDICAP (CLASS C) £9,000 added 3YO 1m 2f 120yds Penaity Value £6,138

	127-	MORNETE (O EXIL (103) (SE2 CS) (MCS) 1 COMPASS
!	5341-	RIVER TIMES (USA) (211) (C) (Times of Wigan) T Easterby 9.5
•	001-	MOUTAHDDEE (210) (Shekn Ahmed Al Maktourn) M Tregoning 9 3
	23-	WEET FOR ME (148) (Ed Westma) R Hollershead 9 2
i	462-	HISHMAH (217) (BF) (Hamdari Al Maktoum) E Dunlop 9 1
i	6541-	RANEEN MASHWAM (150) (Sheich Ahmed Al Makrouch) M Charmon 9 0 P Citory (7) 6
•	310-	STOLEN TEAR (FR) (191) (BR) (Maintaum Al Maintaum) M. Jorreson & C D. Holland 1
		LITTLE PIPPIN (185) (Mes. B Swire) G Balding 6 10
i		WINDSHIFT (7) (G & Carlistos) D Shaw 8 8
		_9 decisered -

SETTING: 7-2 Windshift, 5-1 Hishmah, 6-1 River Times, Moutahddee, 13-2 Nowhere To Exil, Rapeen Nashwan, 8-1 Stolen Tear, 10-1 others

FORM VERDICT

Hardly a race to be confident about with most of the runners, including those from top yards, tackling a new trip. Windshift won well last week at Warwick, but that was not the strongest of handicaps and his stamina is not guaranteed here. With the John Durliop string in fine form, it may be best to side with Lop weight NOWHERE TO EXIT, who is proven on soft and should be well suited by today's step up in trip.

4.00 HAYDOCK PARK ANNUAL BADGEHOLDERS MAIDEN STAKES (D) £5,250 added 3YO 7f 30yds Pen. Vai. £3,599

_		SIMILE (D) 20,250 access 510 11 co) ac 1 cm rain 20,250
		AREEN ALASAD (Shekn Ahmed Al Makroum) M. Jarvis 9 O
	0434	COMPATRIOT (245) (M Tabor) N Calaghan 9 0
		ELISSUS (USA) (Shekh Mohammed) M Tregoring 90 T Sprake 7
	136-	LARBNAR BAY (162) Lionn E Oldknow W Brisbourne 9 0 T G McLaughlin 4
	634-	NOW LOOK HERE (146) (S.L. Edwards) & McMahon 9 0
		TRUMPET BLUES (USA) (183) (Bob Latement) J Dunico 90
		ROLLIN ROBERTA (201) (Lady Westbrook) T Easterby 9.9

- 7 declared -BETTING: 6-4 Compatriot, 4-1 Arcen Alasad, 5-1 Now Look Here, 11-2 Illessus, 7-1 Trumpet Blues, 14-1 Boffin Roberta, 20-1 Larlmar Bay

FORM VERDICT

A literal reading of the formbook gives Compatitiot first-rate claims but he is probably flattered by that, has been absent since early August and has never run on a soft surface. Today's ground wit not present any problems for Trumpet Blues or NOW LOOK HERE and the booking of Richard Quinn for the latter, even though he is partnenng the other three Dunlop runners on the card, looks significant.

HYPERION

2.05 Anns Girl 2.35 Palaemon 3.05 Madam Muck 3.35 Weather Wise 4.05 Minella Derby 4.35 Wayfarers Way 5.10 Admiral Rose 5.40 **Grev Fusilier**

Grey Fusitier

GOING: Good to Soft (Good in places).

Ill Right-hand course with sharp turns. Run-in 280yd.

Course is N of town on A380. Newton Abbot station fin.

ADMISSION: Tattersals Phi; Course E5 Accompanied underflas free. CAR PARIK: On rais PLSO, remainder free.

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe 98-356 (27%), P Hobbs 53-181
(283%), P Nicholis 35-53 (229%), R Prest 28-256 (109%).

LEADING JOCKEYS: A P McCoy 69-216 (319%), R Durwoody
43-728 (33.6%), J Frost 28-203 (12.8%), C Maude 18-114 (15.6%).

IF FAVOURITES: 300-689 (43.5%).

TONGUE STRAP: Lur-U-Frank (2.35). Clara Cane (2.35),
Southernhay Boy (2.35). Mister Blake (3.05), Diddy Rymer
(3.35). BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Minette Derby (4.05), Shedirwan
(4.05). Border Trader (viscored, 2.35).

2.05 EASTER BUNNY MAIDEN HURDLE (E) 23,000 added fillies & mares 2m 1f

1	-10324	ANNS GIFIL (10) J Fox 6 11 0			
2	F-0	CEDOR'S GENI (7) R Lee 8 ti 0			
3		GAROTA DE IPANEMA (F13) Mass K Marks 5 11 0 V Stattery			
4	4F0	RISE ABOVE (60) Miss K George 5 to 0			
5		INTERPOINT (23) N Hawise 5 ft 0			
Š		MISS BALLISTIC (14) A Barrow 6 1) 0S Burrough			
7		SPARKLING LASS (30) N Aylife 5 11 0M Griffatte (5)			
Ŕ		THATCHAM ISLAND (9) D Waters 6 11 0 D Griffiths			
9		VELSHEDA (47) C Morlock 6 11 0 J A McCarthy			
9 10		BELLE D'ORSINI (F206) M Pipe 4 to 8			
-		DESERT SONG (F180) F Frost 4 10 8 T O'Connor (7)			
11					
2	P4	HILLSIDE ROSE (B0) R Frost 4 10 8 J Frost			
13		MONCHANIA (F56) P Hobbs 4 to 8			
и	0	SEA FIG (79) S Kright 4 10 B			
15	4432	TUS (F7) P Bower 4 10 8 W Warston			
76		WIZADORA (10) Williams 4 10 8 R Widger (5)			
_	-	- 16 declared -			
BET	TING: 7	7-4 Belle D'Orsini, 11-4 Anns Girl, 7-2 Tul, 6-1 Hillside Rose,			

de, 14-1 Gerote De Ipanema. 25-1 Monchenia. 33-1 others FORM VERDICT

as enough form to win this if back to her best

2.35 ENJOY SUMMER RACING CONDITIONALS NOVICE H'CAP HURDLE (F) £3,000 2m 6f F4446F SANDORAN (11) M HE 6 10 1 ...

a Buck 9st 67b. Henbury Prin BETTING: 3-1 Damp Course, 100-30 Clara Case, 5-1 Paleamon, 8-1 Long stone Lad, 10-1 Bozo, Sparkling Buck, 12-1 Lun-U-Frank, 14-1 others FORM VERDICT

Not the strongest of races and BARRIE STIR, despite being 3b out of the handicap, is capable of taking a hand on his old form and will fike this drying ground.

3.05 WEATHERBYS TURF NEWS HANDICAP CHASE (D) 25,250 3m 2f 110yds

1	/12111	ATAVISTIC (44) (CD) P Hobbs 7 ft 10
2		MESS DISKIN (10) (CD) R Buckler 10 11 BJ R Kavannegh
3		NAZZARO (26) (CD) W G M Turner 10 11 8 A P McCoy B
4	64UF3	WELL TIMED (26) (C) R Frost 9 11 6 Frost
5		CREDO IS KING (119) PR Webber 9 tt 3 A McCarthy
6	2143F1	MISTER BLAKE (24) (CO) R Lee 9 m 1 Mr R Forristal (5)
7	124F3	GROSVENOR (7) (D) (BF) P Nichola 8 TI DR Dunwoody
8		STEEL MOSS (9) C Barwell 10 10 9 L Customins (3)
9	F43122	MOORLAND HIGHFLYER (39) (CD) A Hobbs 8 10 6.W Warston
О	F322F	MADAM MUCK (14) N Twiston-Davies B to 0C Llewellyn
		- 10 declareci -

SETTING: 7-2 Attavistic, 5-1 Nazzaro, 11-2 Madam Muck, 7-1 Miss Diskin, Well Timed, Moorland Highliver, 8-1 Mister Blake, Grosvenor, Steel Moss,

FORM VERDICT ATAVISTIC wouldn't have his ideal conditions here but he is still an improver against horses who are out of form or who look high enough in the weights now.

	3	.35	EASTER BONNET RACECOURSE CLAIMING HURDLE (F) £2,400 3m 3f
ı			KING OF THE OCEAN (14) V Greenway 7 12 0 Mir D O'Masara (?)
			SWEET GLOW (FR) (18) (C) M Pipe 12 12 0
ı	3	512002	WEATHER WISE (26) W G M Turner 7 to 8 D Gallagher
	4	630P	LANGLEEFORD (60) E L James 7 ti 6 J R Kavanagh B
j	5	P5/PU	POLO KIT (19) Graham Richards 8 tt 6 J Power (7)
ł	6	OPP5	TREBAL MOON (14) J Portman 6 ti 6R Studholme (5)
ı	7		DIDDY RYMER (107) S Earle 9 ti 5 R Durwoody
ı			PALOSANTO (28) (CD) M Pipe 9 11 4
ì			TYLO STEAMER (17) D WEIGHTS 7 TJ 4
ı			CASTLE SECRET (107) D Burchell 13 TI 2 D J Burchell
ı	n :	332243	DIVINE CHANCE (59) M Churches 11 11 2
ı			FADI (25) R Baker B Ti 2
ı			KING ACRYLIC (22) R Brotherton 8 11 2

FORM VERDICT Not many to take senously here and SWEET GLOW is going to take the beating at these weights.

4.05 GREYHOUND RACING SELLING H'CAP CHASE (G) £3,500 2m 5f 110yds
1 2F-2U FANOS (FR) (10) M Ppa 7 12 0 A P McCoy
2 R/220F MINELLA DERBY (54) P Nichols 9 11 2R Dunwoody B
3 64-445 MISTER ODDY (91) (C) J King 13 10 7 Cummins (3)
4 5-03PP PERSIAN TACTICS (72) T Needham 10 to 3 C Lineallyn
5 1/130P INDIAN RUN (32) (D) R Hodges 10 to 0
6 466505 SHADERWAN (25) C Poonam 8 10 0
7 612344 MR BEAN (58) (C) 8 Liewellyn 9 10 0
8 -PP543 HOLD YOUR RANKS (17) (CD) (8F) R Frost 2 100 _J Frost
9 3/45-0 ROSE GARDEN (11) R Pocock 10 10 0, R Widger (5)
10 OP-4PO JHAL FREZI (14) A Berrow # 10 0 S Burrough
11 P-2335 GALLANT TAFFY (47) (BF) M Pice 7 10 0 J A McCarthy
12 /P1-08 DACELO (FR) (17) H Hoves 8 10 0
13 R562-P TANGO'S DELIGHT (95) A Baker 11 10 0 V Slattery
14 P.OSPS MANAMOUR (47) (C) R Lee 12 10 0Mr R Forristal (5)
15 2P2PP6 HELLO ME MAN (17) B Llewellyn 11 100 X Alzpuro (3)
16 -FLIU40 SILENT GUNS (NZ) (11) G Edwards 10 10 0
- 16 declared -

FORM VERDICT The top two in the handicap look head and shoulders above the rest of this field and it looks a virtual match between the pair. Mirells Derby may well have the most natural abity but he has had his problems and IRANOS looks a safer se-

4.35 SOUTH WEST RACING CLUB CHALLENGE

TROPHY HCAP HURDLE (D) \$4,000 2m 1f				
1 11124- MYSTIK DAY (351) (D) M Pipe 5 12 0 A P McCoy				
2 -FT30 THUNDERPOINT (10) (0) Miss K George 7 tt 0 R Massey B				
3 005-40 NINE O THREE (36) (D) Mrs S Williams 10 10 13 R Wildger (6)				
4 102P61 OPTRHISTIC THINKER (17) (CD) T George 5 to 6 T Janks				
5 -P0425 WAYFARERS WAY (82) (D) N Handerson 8 to 7J R Kawanagh				
6 216P-0 RECH LIFE (11) (D) R Balter 9 106				
7 100162 MR PERFECTA (17) (CD) R Frost 6 10 5 J Frost				
8 4U2662 PHARLY REEF (15) D Surchell 7 100				
9 -0P350 WALK ON BY (10) J King 5 to 0 L Cummins (3)				
1) 64541 FALCON RIDGE (30) (D) Miss E Lavele 5 10 0 S Kelly (5)				
- 10 declared -				

Monthum Weight, 1962. This handcap weights: Phany Reef Set 11th, Walk On By 8st 10th, Felcon Ridge 9st 10th. BETTING: 11-4 Mystik Day, 4-1 Falcon Ridge, 9-2 Optimustic Thinker, 11-2 Mr Perfecta, Waylarers Way, 12-1 Thunderpoint, 14-1 Nine O Three, Walk On By, 18-1 Phanty Reef, Rich Life

FORM VERDICT There is every chance MIR PERFECTA could reverse recent C&D form with Optimistic Thinker on this better ground. The Frost stable has been in good form at this venue of late and Mir Perfects can get the better of Wayfarers Way who has a great chance if he puts his best tool forward.

5_10 WINNING POST RESTAURANT MAIDEN

٧.		'] OPEN NH FLAT (H) (Div I) £1,750 2m 1f
•		ADMIRAL ROSE N Henderson 5 11 B J R Kavanagh
2	2-F	BABY JOHN (92) (BF) Mass H knight 6 11 6 R Famant
3		BOOMFRELD (203) J S Smith 5 ft 6
		GRANDPA MAURICE (82) R Baker 5 ti 6G Shenkin (5)
5		JULIE'S LEADER P Nichols 5 ft 6 A P McCoy
3		MR THURESTONE R Frost 6 til 6
7		STAND EASY J Portman 6 ft 6 Mr R Forristal (5)
3	36	ESTER'S GIRL (11) K Bel 6 ft 1 C Liewellyn
3		GRAFTER E L. James 5 11 1
0		OSOCOOL O Sherwood 5 11 1 A McCarthy
11		RETRO'S LADY N Twiston-Davies 5 11 1
2		GRAND COMMANCHE (30) W G M Turner 4 11 0 J Power (7)
13	AB	HAPPICAT (70) P R Webber 4 11 D D Gallagher
4		SELVER POT BLACK P Hobbs 4 11 0 R Durwoody
5	0	FROSTY BELLE (30) A Hobbs 4 10 9Guy Lawis (3)
16		LESLA S Earle 4 109 L Harvey
		- 16 declared -
		1-10 Admiral Rose, 3-1 Julie's Leader, 8-1 Baby John, Retro's
.adv.	10-1	Osocool, 12-1 Silver Pot Black, 20-1 Mr Thuristone, Stand

FORM VERDICT

This looks booked for one of the newcomers and while Admiral Rose has a lot going for him on breeding it could be worth chancing SILVER POT BLACK. He is bred to have lots of pace but there is some stamina in his pedigree as well and he can edge Richard Durwoody closer to Peter Scud-

5.40 WINNING POST RESTAURANT MAIDEN

L		☐ OPEN NH FLAT (H) (Div II) £1,750 2m 1f
1		GREY RUSILIER C Egerton 5 11 6 Sophie Mitchell
2	PEP	LOCHCHOIRE (13) R Frost 6 11 6
3		MEGAZINE M Hill 5 11 6 D Satter
4	01	NATIVE TRUMP (55) C Morlock 5 11 6
5		EXCITIC PROFILES (10) Miss K George 5 ft 1, R Massey
6	62	TOM COBBLER (19) N Twiston-Davies 5 to 6 C Lieurellyin
7		TRAVEL BY LAND M Pipe 5 11 6 A P McCoy
В	06	FESTIVAL LEADER (36) Mrs P Dutlielu 5 til 1N Willenington (7)
9	0	FINAL CHANCE (82) C Tizzard 5 11 1 Mr R Forristal (5)
1)	KITTENKAT N Mitchell 5 to 1 G Shenkin (5)
T	Q	AUBURN SPIRIT (26) M Usher 4 11 () D Byrne
ī	5	IT'S ALL GOOD FUN (37) M Pitman 4 ti () L Concoran (7)
Ē	1	KAMBALA G Baiking 4 11 0 F Kenity (7)
H	. 00	GRAYROSE HIP (38) A Bailey 4 10 9
ľ	i 00	LADY OF THE LAMP (28) P Jones 4 10 9 S Kelly (5)
ŧ		MESS WIZADORA S Earle 4 10 9L Hervey
		- 16 declared -

BETTING: 9-4 Tom Cobbler, 7-2 Travel By Land, 5-1 It's All Good Fun 6-1 Gray Fusilier, 9-1 Nathe Trump, 16-1 Final Chance, Kambela, 20 Aubum Spirit, Megazine, 25-1 others

FORM VERDICT

Tom Cobbler has the best form but is susceptible to an above-average newcorner. Of those that have yet to see a racecourse Travel By Land and GREY FUSILIER catch the eye and nar-row preference is for the latter, who looks the better-bred of the pair and may well start at a bigger price.

PLUMPTON

HYPERION

2.10 One In The Eye 2.45 Nordic Breeze 3.15 Father Krismas 3.45 Reach The Clouds 4.15

Via Del Quatro 4.50 Johnston's Art GOING: Good to Soft (Good in places) COUNCE 1900 to Soft (Good in places)

It iff-hand, undulating course with sharp bends. Tricky down-hill fence in back straight. Uphili run-in of 200yds.

Course is off A275 S of Haywards Heath Plumpton rail station adjoins course. ADMISSION: Members 214* Tettersals 210 (OAPS 25); Silver ring 56 (OAPS 24). CAR PARK: Members area

ES, remainder free
FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS
LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe 31-58 (456%), J Jenkins 14-78
(175%), T McGovern 12-50 (20%), R Rowe 12-69 (135%)
LEADING JOCKEYS: A P McCoy 43-120 (358%), M A
Fitzgerald 17-76 (224%), D O'Sullivan 14-84 (15.7%), J R
Kavanagh 13-56 (19.7%),
TONGUE STRAP: Bunderburg (210), Aydisun (210), Private
Seal (315), Another Course (345),
FAVOURITES: 203-493 (412%),
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None

2.10 HALLANDS CONDITIONALS SELLING

	H'CAP HUNDLE (G) 12,500 2m II			
i	1	2/56-0	ONE IN THE EYE (26) J.R. Poulton 6 11 10	J Magee
	2	2402P3	INCLINATION (15) (D) Mrs L Jawel 5 ff 8	N Morris (7)
	3		DURHAM (F190) (D) G L Moore 8 Tl 7	M Batchelor B
	4		MEMORY'S MUSIC (30) M Madgwoth 7 11 4	C Murray (5)
	5		MOYLOUGH REBEL (64) J Long 6 Tl 2	M Keighley (3)
	6	053P	LAUREN'S LAD (72) B Dewallyn 4 ft 1 .	R Hobson (5)
	7		GREEN JACKET (F32) R O'Subvan 4 10 10	. A Bastes
	8	00/0	ILLEGALLY YOURS (15) L Montague Hall 6 V	10 O Burroms
	9		ADILOV (26) J Bridger 7 10 8	L Suthern
	10	05000	SILVERY (15) S Woodman 5 10 6	H Other
	11		GOLDEN FAWN (38) (BF) M Haynes 5 10 5	J <i>Tizza</i> d
	12		SANDANTE (25) (D) R Buckler 8 10 3	D O'Sullivan (5)
	13		BUNDERBURG (USA) (87) A OSulivan 9 10 1	Edgar Byrne
	14		WHISKY WILMA (47) D Gressel 7 100.	W Greatnex (5)
			AYDISUN (57) R Curte 7 10 0 .	A Price (7)
	_			-

 15 declared Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Aydisun 9st 12b BETTING: 11-4 Golden Fawn, 7-2 Inclination, 9-1 Memory's Music, Sanlante, 10-1 Durbarn, 12-1 Green Jacket. 14-1 Silvery, 16-1 others FORM VERDICT

A weak seller in which Golden Faren is preferred to Inclination of those with recent-form credentials, but the one who stands out is DURHAM. He is potentially a class above these and eithough he seems happier on the Flat, he did wan a hundle in 1004 and he is because in the table. die in 1994 and he is basically a better horse nowadays judged

2.45 CANARD DUCHENE CHAMPAGNE

NOVICE CHASE (F) £3,500 2m 5f		
1	452143 HEAD FOR HEAVEN (11) (C) A Hoad 9 TI 8	. A Thomks
2	2F3331 JAZZMAN (14) G McCourt 7 TI 8 .	E Husbar
3	00-431 NORDIC BREEZE (9) (D) M Pipe 7 ft 8	.R Green
4	343/42 CHICODARI (49) D Nicholson 7 11 2	Fi Johnso
5	21-OP THATS NO ANSWER (29) V Darmal 6 11 2 .	. G Torm
6	3FF300 BLACK SPRING (15) R Rowe 7 to 1	PHic
7	P2PO-P SISTER ALL (306) B Pearce 7 10 TI .	J Mage
-	- 7 declared -	_
_	THE R. P. L. L. S. P. L. B. B. B. C. C. C. C. C.	وها و و ليمد

n, 25-1 Black Spring, 33-1 others **FORM VERDICT**

NORDIC BREEZE is no good thing, but he has taken better to ferices than the other once-decent hunder Chicoderiand he may well have more speed under today's conditions than Jazzanian. Head For Heaven has a bit to find in terms

3.15 PILLAR PROPERTY PLC HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 4YO 2m 1f 255021 SADDLERS' ROE (10) D Nicholson 71 5 ... 1545 FLUSH (FR) (10) (BF) M Pipe 1: 0 . BOMBAY MIX (F303) J Portman 10: 12 00 FALKENBERG (FR) (F37) B Pearce 10: 12

32322 FATHER KRISMAS (23) (BF) P Nichols 10 C ## ATHER KRISMAS (23) (BF) P Monols 10 C

4 INN ON THE PARK (F84) S Dow 10 C

2 KPOLO (F81) B Johnson 10 C

5 LIGHTNING STAR (15) R Stronge 10 C

MARSH MELLOW (44) R Hodges 10 C

8 MERRY PRINCE (F24) P Hodges 10 C

9 PRIVATE SCAL (F16) J C Pouton 10 C

10 TEMAJIN (15) D O'Bren 10 C

1A PETITE FLAMECKE (F89) R O'Suliven 10 7

13 AGEIRM
13 AGEIRM
13 AGEIRM
13 AGEIRM
14 AGEIRM
15 AGEIRM
16 AGEIRM
17 AGEIRM
18 Mr S Stronge (7) P Holley M Richards Leesa Long

- 13 declared -BETTING: 5-4 Fether Krismae, 2-1 Saddlers' Roe, 9-2 Flush, 10-1 Iren On The Park, 20-1 Lightning Star, 25-1 Kpolo, La Petite Flameche, 33-1

CARLISLE

HYPERION

2.15 Birkdale 2.45 Symonds Inn 3.20 Flat Top

3.50 Five Flags 4.20 Stan's Your Man 4.55

of M6. Bus service from Cartisle station 2m. ADMISSION: Club

£14 (OAPs & under-21s £11); Tattersalls £7 (OAPs & under-21s

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

LEADING TRAINERS: J Berry 36-74 (316%), L Lungo 22-12:

(18.2%), Mira S Smith 13-94 (13.8%), C Parker 11-103 (10.7%). III LEADING JOCKEYS: A Dobbin 30-150 (20%), P Niven 29-104

(27.9%), B Storey 18-173 (10.4%), P Carberry 14-49 (28.6%). ■ FAVOURITES: 150-383 (41.3%).

TONGUE STRAP: Birkdale (2.15), Radiation (2.15), Black Abbey (215), Karisma (245), Hong Kong Classic (245), The Accountant (245), Pentlands Flyer (420)

ACCOUNTAIN (20), Featurates Figer (20) LONG DISTANCE TRAVELLER: Familiaron (215) sent 281 miles. BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Black Abbey (215), My Shenan-doah (350), Supreme Spice (455), Cultane Lake (visored, 420).

2.15 BORDER GARDEN CENTRE NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,500 added 3m 2f

- 11 declared -

BETTING: 11-10 Birkdale, 2-1 Fardaron, 9-1 Steen, 10-1 Radiation, Cross The Rubicon, 14-1 Bellysaughan, 25-1 Our Carol, 50-1 others

FORM VERDICT With doubts about the stamins and temperament of Ferdaron this can go to BIRKDALE, who has made great strides over

hurdles this season, and who is expected to turn in an im-proved round of jumping on the better ground here. Belly-vaughen, who ran the race of his life at Kelso last week, and

2.45 BBC RADIO CUMBRIA NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 1f

1125 SYMONOS NAN (77) (D) J Fitz Gerald 5 11 12...... P Nilvan 21P CLASSICAL DANCE (96) (D) Mrs M Reveloy 5 TI 8 Mr A Dempetry

- 16 decisred -BETTING: 8-4 Patras, 13-8 Symonds Inst, 8-1 Classical Dance, 10-1 Wild Harvest, 16-1 Geomar, Kerlema, Thunderheert, 25-1 others

FORM VERDICT

Symonds Inn obviously has to come into the reckoning, but his attitude gives cause for concern, and he is not one to take a short prica about. The other obvious candidate is Pa-tres, who has won two out of two, the latest in a modest event

at Uttorester lest week. He'il not be much in the way of value either, so it could be worth taking a chance on CLASSICAL DANCE, whose Sedgefield debut run was a solid effort. Marthia's Moonatone, who shaped better at Newcastie last

3.20 QUILTER HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,250 added 3m 2f

Jokers Charm

GOING: Good to Soft (Good in places)

£4), CAR PARK: On rails £5, remainder free

Right-hand, undulating course.

Course is on southern outskirts of to

FORM VERDICT

Paul Nicholls has empyed a fantastic 96as neights of Chattenham he now has one eye on the Trainers Championship. His stable has been going well this week and FATHER KRISMAS is fanoed to gain a little more prize money for him. The selection boasts the best form on offer and deserves a change of luck for his consistency, Saddlers' Roe halfs from another in form stable and looks the main dange

3.45 WARD EXECUTIVE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £4,000 added 2m 2f

		3 (CLASS) / 2-1000
ī	FF-65	DIWALI DANCER (35) M Pipe 9 2 0
2	4057 /	COUTERN HERD (15) (C) (D) R Alber 9 T 9 . A I RATIN
•	D14 10	NAMES COLOR I SECOLOR DI DI NICOLOR DI TI 7
	6247DS	REVIOUR CUR REACH (28) (D) R HOOGES 11 10 9 P HOO
=	20.70	ARTEAN (14) G Englis 10 10 9
6	203422	KER IV MAC (19) (C) () () () () () () () () () () () () ()
7	0.1775	REACH THE CLOUDS (50) (C) JUSSON 7 3/5 3 1222
à	E2.10	KVR/TYS REVENGE (54) R Rose 8 10 4 P PR
ŏ	4207234	JASON'S ROY (14) (D) J M Bradey 9 10 C G Tormey
10	230P2P	ANOTHER COURSE (73) C Martin Ti 70 0 Mrs C J Ma
~		- 10 declared -
		- to the factor of the Aport

th The Clouds, 5-1 Kelly Mac, 6-1 Namoodej, 13-

FORM VERDICT

A race that will not take a great deal of wirning and one which should be within the compass of COOLTEEN HERO, who showed planty of courage when successful hele earlier in the season and shaped well enough last time to suggest he is in form. Diwall Dancer would be a threat if back in-form and Namooda) is better than he showed last time, but the toggest ifweat may be Reach The Clouds if he jumps bet-

4.15 ABERGAVENNY CHALLENGE CLIP NOVICE

H'CAP CHASE (F) £3,500 3m 11 110yos
1 /1-FF2 CHRISTCHURCH (FR) (59) 1 9 Moore 9 12 0 J Mages
2 31F23F TOTAL JOY (15) (CD) (BF) C Nacro 8 Ti 12Mr N Febry (7)
3 0856; ARTURO (861) M Pice 8 7 5 R Johnson
4 220322 MELLING (14) (BF) R Hodges 6 Ti 5
5 .50-F2 NO MATTER (19) A Rouge & 10 TE
6 22430 VIA DEL DUATRO (22) 1 1545 TS 7 10 TI A Bates (3)
7 PSP4P CHATERGOLD (17) A Jarvs 7 °C Ti E Husband
8 2-6UF4 GREY GORDEN (15) T 46Govern 11 37 G Tonney
9 4PP-04 QUIBBLING (14) K Comercial 5 지 6 R Greene V
1) P.P.3PU BUBBLES GALORE (15) T D McCarthy 8:10 1 O Burrows (5)
11 P-236P DANZANTE (116) Demos Morts 7 O 1 P Holley
- 11 declared -

BETTING: 3-1 Total Joy. 9-2 Christchusch, 5-1 Via Del Quatro, 11-2 Melling 7-1 Danzante. 10-1 Artum, No Matter, Chatergold, 25-1 others FORM VERDICT

TOTAL JOY must have a good chance judged on his good Huntingdon effort provided he can be steered round safe-ly Markel confidence behind Arturo would be significant in this weak contest which Melling and Christchurch are oth-

4.50 HURSTPIERPOINT NOVICE HURDLE

[CLASS E] \$2,500 added 2111 41
1 52571 HIGH GAME (14) (D) G L Moore 5 Ti 2
2 ನೀಡು JOHNSTON'S ART (19) (CD) ⊃ ತಿಟರ್ಟೇ € ನ 5D O'Sullivan (7)
3 6F ALKATEB (23) P Sodes 7 77 2 Miss V Roberts (7)
4 (14135 ARLEOURN DE SOU (28) (D) (BP) Printes 5 T 2 G Tormey
5 (0.404 COLOUR COUNSELLOR (122) Mass A M N-Smith 6 to 2
M Barchelor (5)
6 56-622 DIRTY DOZEN (106) (BF) D Narroson 7 T 2 R Johnson
7 DP GILL'S GALE (92) R Ficke 7 Tt 2 P Holley
8 3440 [RISK OPTION (38) 」 送付かっそ ii 2 A Thornton
9 060F-F KILARINEY KING (19) K Be\$ 5 ft 2
10 256,556 KYLAMI (MZ) (28) J Griboti 7 it 2 0 Burnows (5)
n 40450 POUNSLEY MILL (17) J Grison 5 ii 2 J Tezzard
© 00046 FOREST FLORA (40) J Mc≦rs 5 ℃ 11
13 541) NOUVEAU CHEVAL (17) M Pipe 4 10 T R Greens
M 24 DILIDEEN (116) T McGovern 4 TD 4 C Mastray (7)

- 14 declared -BETTING: 11-4 Johnston's Art. Nouveau Cheval, 3-1 High Game, 5-1 Dirty zen, 14-1 Irish Option, 16-1 Pounsiev Mill. Dudsen. 20-1 others FORM VERDICT

NOUVEAU CHEVAL looked worth following when an easy winner at Huntingdon and her subsequent Cheltenham tailure should not be held against her High Game, who holds Arlequin De Sou and Forest Flora on Fontwell torra, and Dirty Dozen, who has been knocking at the door and whose form reads quite well, look the main threats.

FORM VERDICT

This looks quite an open affair, and despite the claims of Swan-bister and Flat Top, it can go to SON OF IRIS, who usually reserves his best form for this course, and can make amends for his unlucky defeat in this event a year ago. Mas-

3.50 CUMMERSDALE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £4.000 added 2m 4f 110yds

_		그 (CLASS D) 14,000 added 2m 4i i loyd:
1	221211	THE NEXT WALTZ (23) (CD) L Lungo 8 # 10 Mr B Gibson (
2	53 033	JESSOLLE (14) (D) N Richards 7 th 4 Mr J Crowley (3
3	642TI2	THANKS KEITH (21) (D) J J ONell 4 11 0 L Cooper (7)
4	35U265	MY SHENANDOAH (36) (D) J H Johnson 8 10 10 A S Smith
5	63540P	NSJAMEGEN (36) J FitzGerald IT 10 9
6	034521	FIVE FLAGS (10) (D) Wrs S Smith 11 10 9 R Wilkinson (
7	505313	I'M THE MAN (32) (D) Mrs E Stack 8 10 8 A Dobbi
8	23422	VILPRANO (22) D Molfatt 8 ti) 4
9	5-14	WILD HADEER (19) J Upson 5 to 0 B Grattan (
10	30402	APOLLO'S DAUGHTER (16) J Goulding 11 10 0 N Horrocks (
•	ENJER	MACTUEDU PUADAGO CINA E Alice 7 450 1 Mile

- 11 declared num weight; 10st. True handicap weights: Apollo's daughter 9st 12fb, mer Sal 106b BETTING: 7-2 Thanks Kelth, 4-1 The Next Waltz, 5-1 Five Rags, 11-2 Jeesolla, 13-2 Vilprano, 12-1 My Shenandoah, I'm The Man, 14-1 others

FORM VERDICT doah has a big chance over his best trip if blinkers work but a more reliable type is FIVE FLAGS whose Towcester win was boosted this week and who is still on a fair mark. Wild Hadeer is a potential improver for this distance

4.20 J. NOBLE'S PROMOTIONS CAR BOOT

_		HARHICAP CHASE (F) £4,5002m 41110yC
1	0-nFF	SWEEP GENTLY (42) Was S Smith 7 t2 0 S Dura
2	123-75	MR KNITWIT (21) (D) P Monterth 12 TI 11
3	<i>3</i> F1-33	SHANAVOGH (92) (CD) (BF) G M Moore 8 11 11 J Callegh
4	2-F314	HARFDECENT (22) (D) (BF) Mrs M Reveley 8 Ti 10 P Nov
5	PP-522	JYMJAM JOHNNY (14) (D) J J O'Neil 10 11 to _R McGrath
6	1043-6	STAN'S YOUR MAN (14) (D) P Beaumont 9 11 8 R Sup
7	2-2230	PENTLANDS PLYER (43) (CO) J H Johnson 8 ft 4 A Dobb
8	351221	SALEM BEACH (26) (D) M Todhunter 7 th 2 C McContrack
9	U41133	DAMEYS GORSE (26) (D) J Jefferson 7 ft 1 T Skiddelf (5)
10	406-00	CRAIGARY (SE) Mrs A Swinbank 8 10 11 J Sup
ħ	051P/P	MALTA MAN (33) (D) C Grant 9 to to

12 2579FF REFLEX COURSER (7) J Upson 7 10 8 15 3/25PP CULLANE LAKE (46) (D) Miss K Miligan 9 10 0 . B Greiten (3) - 15 dectared -

Minimum weight; 10st, True handson weight; Cusane Lake 9st 8th, BETTING: 7-2 Stan's Your Man, 9-2 Hartdoomst, 5-1 Selem Beach, 7-1 Sharavogh, Jyrojam Johney, 8-1 Mr Knilwit; Denbys Gorse, 10-1 others

CHARLES OF STREET STREET, OF THE PRINCE CHARLES GOING 10-1 CO.
FORM VERDICT
Jymjam Johnny has shaped as though he has a race in hi
before long, while Little Tusks is capable of better then h
has shown so far and Stan's Your Man is an interestin
prospect. Mr Knitwit and Pentlands Flyer are potential
on a winning mark and Sweep Gently is well thought of, bu
perhaps it will pay to give another chance to SHANAVOGE
who goes well fresh and had performed so well on his reap
pearance before disappointing at Leicester.

4.55 CURROCK NOVICE H'CAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3.000 added 2m 4f 110vds

_		- (02300 2) 20,000 80868 21141 1 1090
1	12	SWIFTWAY (F4) (D) K Hogg 5 12 0
2	23/225	NORTHERN UNION (CAM) (78) C Parker 8 TI 8 D Parker
3	-f2300	DEMI CENTURY (14) Mrs S Smith 7 ft 2
4	2-0003	OANTE'S GLEN (23) Liungo 5 to 12
5		MAAZOOM (14) M Sowersby 4 to 11 A Dobbi
6	120635	MY SALTARELLO (14) (D) M Barnes 5 to 8 S Taylo
7	0-4P01	WELLSWOOD (23) J Jefferson 6 to 8 L Wyn
8	325FF0	AYEKNOWSO (60) Mrs D Thomson 6 10 7 C McConneck (2
9		SUPREME SPICE (26) F Murphy 6 10 6.Mr J P McNemera (5)
10		TEPPING TINA (14) W Storey 6 to 6 R McGrat
11		JOKERS CHARM (15) N Mason 8 to 4
Z		MAJOR HAGE (60) J Howard Johnson 8 102 A S Smit
13		DUNSTON HEATH (17) B Leavy 6 to 1 W Worthingto
14	24-00P	DAMARIS (18) R Alien 7 10 0 B Store
Б	Q/D-PP	UNFORGETABLE (40) JJ (Theil ? 10 0 L Cooper (7
16	0-006	ROLLING PATCH (49) E Alston 5 10 0 G La
17	006060	SHE'S ALL HEART (26) L Lungo 6 to 0 W Dowling &
16	000P06	EDDIE ROMBO (7) R Woodhouse 4 10 0 B Herdin
		- 16 declared -

Minimum weight: 10st. True handlicap weights: Uniongelable 9st 10b, Rolling Patch 9st 3th, She's All Heart 9st 2th, Eddie Rombo 8st 10b BETTING: 5-1 Swittney, 6-1 Weltswood, 7-1 Dente's Glen, My Seltarol-lo, 8-1 Tipping Tina, 10-1 Dunaton Heeth, 13-1 Johans Chenn, Mazzoom, Suprama Spice, 14-1 Major Hege, 16-1 others

in what looks a tricky event, it could be worth taking a chawith TIPPING TINA, who looks on a fair mark, and will be suited by the drying-out ground. Top weight Swiftway, the consistent My Saltanello and Suprema Spice are others who should have conditions in their favour.

FORM VERDICT

Sheffield Sharks players celebrate in the MEN Arena after winning the League yesterday Mansoor Ahmed Myers in moment

of magic BRINGING THE league championship down to their last

game of the season was not enough for the Sharks and the Giants. Terrell Myers took it to Manchester Giants Sheffield Sharks the very last second yesterday.

slotting home an 18ft jumpshot to land Sheffield the title in front of 11.143 fans at the MEN Агепа.

Myers sold the sweetest fake to two Manchester defenders before launching his shot and he was buried by team-mates, the coach, Chris Finch, and the bench players before the ball had barely swished through

the net. But the 25-year-old from New Haven, Connecticut, was on familiar territory. Last season his final-second shot ne league title to the National Cup they won in January to re-

peat Sheffield's double of 1995. "I said to Travis [Conlan] in the locker-room before the game, 'Give me the ball and I'll win it.' If I get the ball I always believe I am going to hit the shot. I was as good as my

word," Myers said. Although the championship has been settled before in the final game, never in league history have the two prospective champions faced each other in their last fixture with

the title still in the balance. Sheffield should have clinched it last weekend but nerves at the free-throw line cost them an 84-81 defeat at struggling Chester Jets. That gave Manchester a second chance after their title hopes appeared to fade with the previous weekend's defeat against London Towers.

Finch, the first person to win the league as a player and a coach with the Sharks' in 1995, said: "We've come through a tough week but we brought it down to the last shot. It's ended up being a fantastic week."

BASKETBALL

By RICHARD TAYLOR

But nerves stiffened the shooting fingers. Sheffield hit just two out of 12 three-point attempts in the first quarter as the teams struggled to score at

even 30 per cent from open play. When John White opened the scoring with a three for Manchester it proved to be the biggest lead of the first quarter. before Myers and Kevin St Kitts also swapped three-pointers to tie the first quarter at 17-17.

Incredibly, Giants never led again as the Sharks reverted to won the League Trophy for their slower game to exert a Sheffield. This time he added tenuous, but what proved to be

They led by eight and nine points in the third and as many as 10 in the fourth, but the Giants always hit back. Whenever big-name stars White or Tony Dorsey hit the spectacular shot, Sheffield's blue-collar workers, Todd Cauthorn, Iain McKinney and Michael Payne, responded.

Before his winning shot, Myers made a play to break the hearts of the majority of fans in the second biggest crowd to watch a basketball game in England. With the Sharks clinging to an 84-83 lead, be missed a three-point attempt but then raced back to block a shot by St Kitts.

Peter Scantlebury, choosing this game to become the first player to make 500 league appearances, scored one free throw to give Sheffield an 85-83 lead before Dorsey tied the game from the line. Then, from an inbounds ball

with just three-and-a-half seconds left on the clock, Myers took the pass then made time stand still to give the title to Sheffield.

Slovenian holds on for narrow victory

THE THAMES World Sculling Challenge, newly introduced alongside the Boat Race to produce a weekend of rowing, pushed its ancient rival into the shade yesterday afternoon with a cracking race.

The Slovenian soldier, Iztok Cop, won by two feet after four and a half miles of struggle in the worst water the Tideway could produce. Closing on him for all of the last mile was Jamie Koven of the United States, who was technically in default for missing the central arch of Barnes Bridge.

The struggle had developed from the first stroke, with Giovanni Calabrese taking an earty lead and finding the best course until Barn Elms, where he began to stray to the south bank

The Canadian Derek Porter was looking strongest and cop-ing best with the rough conditions, but Cop hung on to him until the Mile Post before mov-

BY HUGH MATHESON

ing decisively through and taking the better line to Harrods. There Cop swung wide and led Porter way out of the stream before cutting back in and shooting Hammersmith several lengths in the lead

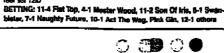
Porter tightened up into the head wind and was in last place behind Stefano Basalini, the 1998 lightweight world champion, when in the worst water and where the head wind met the tide caught a crab and turned turtle.

The women's race was no less exciting, with Miriam Batten-Luke, the double sculls world champion and elder of the Batten girls, finishing a bare length ahead of her sister Guin, the single sculler. Even though she trains daily on this water Miriam managed to scrape Barnes Bridge.

A car with 7 seats that converts into a 2 seater in seconds, I wonder what that looks like? Call now to find out. 0345 400 800

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IDEPENDENT *

Missed putts leave Montgomerie struggling

NO ONE conveys dejection quite like Colin Montgomerie. The glories of sunrise on another beautiful southern morning were no contest for the Scot's depression. Twelve hours after being forced to abandon his first round in the BellSouth Classic with two holes to play as dusk fell on Thursday evening, Montgomerie finished par, bogey yesterday for a level-par 72.

Before setting off on his second round, Europe's No 1 was aiready in 68th place, nine behind leader Duffy Waldorf, his ambitions limited to avoiding a

By ANDY FARRELL in Atlanta

first missed cut of the season. The prospects of him doing so declined when he went to the turn in one over with one birdie but two bogeys.

In 17 rounds this year, Montgomerie has broken 70 just once. By comparison, David Duval's average score is 68.28. "It's the same old story, I'm afraid," Monty said. "I haven't holed a putt over four feet." Few of Thursday afternoon's

starters, whose tee times were Montgomerie has always found Montgomerie's typical State- for par Monty missed the green 69 and 70 respectively, Miguel showing at Augusta, where he pushed back by the morning's fog delay, climbed on to a than pounds, or even euros. As leaderboard headed by Waldarkness began to fall, his first dorf's early 63. Montgomerie is missed green of the round profar more at home on courses duced a bogey when he chipped where par is a valued score, and to three feet but missed the yet this tournament has a field he should be able to dominate, Coming back to play the

Duval and Davis Love the only Norman's TPC course at Sugother world top-10 players arloaf at 7am is no one's idea of fun. The eighth is a long-distance par-three of 248 yards and Starting at the 10th, the Scot hit his tee shot to four feet at the the ninth is a 465 yards par-four short 16th and holed that before with a highly demanding tee getting up and down for another birdie at the par-five 18th. But

The two holes illustrated

eighth and ninth over Greg

he was the only member of his group to make the green. Len Mattiace found a ditch on the right, took two more to make the green but holed a good bogey putt. Pin high but 25 feet from the hole, Monty twoputted for par.

At the ninth, his drive was the only one to find the fairway; Mattiace was up a bank on the left. Rick Fehr just off on the same side. Both were 40 yards behind the Scot but ran their second shots up just short of the green and chipped and putted

three yards off, left it six feet short and missed that.

All three played the two holes in one over, but the evidence pointed to a further crumbling of Montgomerie's avowed belief that the tee shot is the most important shot in golf. As he said last week: "I am beginning to learn that it is the last one that is most important."

While Nick Faido and Ian Woosnam were due to tee off in the afternoon after showing signs of improvement in time for the Masters with rounds of

birdies cost more in dollars side experience. At the eighth on the left, elected to putt from Angel Jimenez produced an impressive front nine of 32 to move to three under

Jimenez was so overjoyed at receiving an invitation to the US Masters last month he went out and bought a new Ferrari. scored a 62 and later went on to win his home town tournament in Malaga, the Turespana Masters.

Now the 35-year-old, who the last Ryder Cup and is in line to make his debut in the match later this year, is keen to improve on his only previous missed the cut four years ago.

Given the form of his countrymen, he may end up the leading Spaniard ahead of two former champions. Seve Ballesteros is not playing here this week, but Jose Maria Olazabal was three over after 27 holes, in which time he had suffered three double bogeys.

Waldorf has won just once on was non-playing vice-captain at the American Tour in the 1995 Texas Open and currently does not have an invitation to the Masters. His last chance would be a victory here.

Iro clinches sweet return s in for Hanley

ent WIGAN'S OLD boys returned to haunt them as Kevin Iro's late try gave St Helens victory in an epic worthy of all the rich traditions of Good Friday derbys between the two clubs. Their last Easter meeting

BASKETBALL

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BEHARD INDOS

before Wigan move out of Central Park seemed to have slipped through Saints' fingers when a Wigan team who had been under the cosh virtually throughout fashioned a try to take them into the lead with less than 10 minutes to play.

Greg Florimo hoisted a high kick, Chris Smith made the fundamental mistake of allowing the ball to bounce and Danny Moore stretched to claim it and score. When Andy Farrell landed a difficult conversion to give Wigan a twopoint advantage it looked as though all Saints' domination had been in vain.

However, Ellery Hanley's side showed him, on his own return to the ground where he achieved so much, that they can of the overlap to give Sullivan summon up the tenacity and determination that characterised

his playing career. With five minutes left, Keiron Cunningham made a probing run to the right, but there was still nothing on offer for Iro, his head swathed with bandages, when he took the ball. The Kiwi, so often a big-match winner for Wigan, shrugged off two tacklers and kept a third at bay as he plunged for the line. It was a try and a result that Saints had earned.

They had gone behind after 10 minutes when Florimo swatted away an ineffectual chal- determined defence and

RUGBY LEAGUE BY DAVE HADFIELD

Wigan Warriors St Helens

lenge from Paul Sculthorpe to go over, but they set the pace for the rest of the first half.

Saints battered the Wigan line without being able to break through and the home side even extended their lead against the run of play with a penalty from Farrell.

When Anthony Sullivan narrowly failed to squeeze in at the corner from Paul Newlove's pass it seemed as though Wigan might have succeeded in weathering the storm but, immediately before half-time. the same combination set up the crucial score.

There was an element of luck about it, Tommy Martyn's acter, it was more like the Wigankick rebounding into his arms St Helens games from the past. and Newlove taking advantage the room he needed to mark his return to the side with a try. Straight after the break-

Saints struck again, with two more of their former Wigan players responsible. Sean Long, whose departure as a make-weight in a transfer deal now looks one of Wigan's less inspired pieces of business. put up a high kick and Paul Atcheson, discarded after just one season at Central Park, leapt high to catch and score.

Martyn's conversion gave Saints a four-point lead that they held, thanks to their own

Wigan's tendency to drop the ball in promising positions.

as he does in Europe, with

Hanley's perming of his depleted forward resources by using Fereti Tuilagi in the second row for most of the game was an unqualified success. and the youngsters, Mark Edmundson and Tim Jonkers, also made impressive contributions. So there was every reason for heads to drop after Moore's try threatened to rob them of their reward.

Even after Iro's winner, Wigan thought they should have had an equalising penalty when Mick Cassidy had the ball ripped from his grasp.

"A couple of tight decisions went against us," said the Wigan coach. John Monie. But we were ahead with eight minutes to go and we should have wrapped the game up. They [St Helens] showed a lot more char-

"Ellery is a very singleminded person, with a very strong self-belief and he has made St Helens pretty hard to crack. They have a much better defence than last year."

Hanley also had praise for his players: "I never thought the chance had gone. If there's time on the clock, there's always a chance. It was a big effort from the whole squad. We showed a lot of character." Wigan: Radlinski; Robinson. Connolly. Moore, P Johnson; Florimo, Reber, Cowie. Cassidy, O'Connor, Haughton, Gilmour, Farrell, Substitutes used: Mestrox West, Ball, Goldspink,

St. Helens: Archeson; Tuilagi, Iro. Newlove, Sullhan; Marryn, Long; O'Neill, Cunningham, Nickle, Perelini, Edmundson, Sculthorpe, Substitutes used; Stewart.



Wigan's Paul Johnson is sent to earth by Phil Adamson, of St Helens, at Central Park yesterday

Roach subdues bold Salford

their perfect start to the Super League season with some crisp finishing, but this was not one of Salford's supine performances and they too can take encouragement from the game.

Two tries from Jason Roach early in the second half settled it, but before and after that Salford showed a willingness to fight back that left their coach. Andy Gregory, in a relatively upbeat mood. In the opening minutes, they were on the way to another humiliation with wellcrafted tries from Lee Penny and Toa Kohe-Love putting Warrington eight points up.

WARRINGTON MAINTAINED BY DAVE HADFIELD

warrington woives

Salford's initial fighthack began with a mistake by Roach. when he carried a kick into touch. A clever inside ball from Bobby Thompson put Malcolm Alker over for the try and Salford's self-belief was back.

Shortly before half-time, a fine run from the dangerous Thompson set up the position from which Carl Briggs wormed his way over. Steve Blakeley's conversion producing an unlikely half-time lead.

inrow his pass bening Alan Hunte. They did not have long to wait. Ian Knott lobbing out the pass for the first of Roach's touchdowns. Danny Farrar provided the ball for the second as Salford were again caught on the blindside and when Michael Wainwright set up Mark Forster, and Lee Briers landed

ble of running away with it. But then the best move of the match, initiated by Scott Martin and Gary Broadbent, yield-

his third conversion of the half,

Warrington again looked capa-

Warrington should have ed Alker's second try and David wiped that out when Penny Hulme's last-minute effort, also made an incisive break only to converted, made the result look cioser man me game was. For Gregory, a measure of

pride in the wholehearted effort. of his side has to be tempered by concern over where any actual wins are coming from. "We fought back," he said. "But if you let in 26 points, you aren't going to win many games." Southerd Reds: Broadbent: Thompson, Ut-tler, Casey, Cange, Blakeley, Briggs: South-ern, Alker, Baynes, Highton, J Falmalo, Hulme, Substitutes used: Crompton, Mar-

Hulme, Substitutes used: Crempton, Mar-tin, Bradbury, Morley, Marrington Wolves: Penny, Roach, Kohe-Love, Hunte, Forser, Wilson, Bners, Hilton, Fartar, Nutrey, Gilles, Knott, Roper, Sub-situtes used: McCurrie, Chambers, Wanwright.
Referee: R Connolly (Wigan).

White on course for return to **Crucible**

SNOOKER

By Wyn Griffiths

JIMMY WHITE made a promis ing start in his effort to secure a 19th consecutive appearance in the televised stages of the Embassy World Championship yesterday at Telford.

The Whirlwind, an everpresent at the Crucible since he made his debut as a professional in the 1981 season, held a healthy 6-3 lead over Dean Revnolds after the first session of their final qualifying round encounter.

It meant that White required only four of the remaining 10 frames last night to have his name included in the draw for the first round proper, to be conducted on Grandstand on BBC1 this afternoon.

Reynolds, only released from a drink-driving jail term a fortnight ago, had high hopes of wrecking White's proud Crucible record, having already ousted the 1986 world champion, Joe Johnson, 10-5 in the previous round.

However, White, successful in six of his previous seven meetings with Reynolds, fired in a confident 60 break in the opening frame and always looked in control from then on. By snatching a scrappy second frame on the brown, and gelner runs of 37. 32 and 104 - the 198th century of his career - White smoothly moved 4-1 ahead.

Revnolds found a reply and temporarily stopped the rot by accounting for the sixth frame before White, a semi-finalist on his two most recent tournament appearances, at the Liverpool Victoria Charity Challenge and the Benson and Hedges Irish Masters, further increased his lead.

Contributions of 72 and 53 served to push him into a 6-2 lead and although Reynolds salvaged the last frame of the afternoon, White, a six times World Championship runner-up. remained handily positioned.

The most surprising scoreline of the day was a commanding 8-1 lead for world No 74 Joe Perry over Stoke's former Asian Open champion, Dave Harold, who constructed a 136-total clearance to claim his solitary frame. Defeat, which now looks highly likely, would be a serious blow for Harold, currently standing 13th on the provisional world list and battling for a spot among the élite top 16 next season.

Darren Morgan, who capained Wales to their Nation's Cup triumph in January, was held 2-2 early on before pulling away to lead Nick Pearce 7-2.

Hide's absence lets Francis seek place in spotlight

onship fight still dominates tonight's promotion at London's Royal Albert Hall and, in truth, Frank Warren's show will not be diminished by the cancellation through injury of Herbie Hide's World Boxing Organisation championship defence against the American Orlin Norris. Hide's lack of activity precludes him from being the attraction he could be but tonight's gate will not suf-

fer overly. If Hide seems destined to

BASKETBALL

NBA: Detroit 87 Boston 72: Washington 84 Orlando 73: Milwaukee 102 Charlotte 94: Phoenix 93 Golden State 78: Portland

THURSDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Bud-

BOXING

still only 27, is a former Amateur Boxing Association finalist who turned pro in his teens and so seemed destined for professional success. Francis, 34, has only been a pro for six years and had no amateur career to speak of But tonight he replaces Hide in the spotlight and deservedly so. Francis defends his British

underachievement then Julius and Commonwealth titles

BY GLYN LEACH

Francis is his opposite. Hide,

Danny Williams in a domestic showdown between south London "faces", men who have worked the doors on some of the toughest clubs in the country and become known for their

when things get nasty.

At one time, he admits, Francis was the cause and not the cure in matters of civil disorder. The Woolwich-based champion's past, he confesses, features football hooliganism under Millwall colours and small-scale drug dealing.

spect but admits to being "a bit of a lad" in Brixton. Both are now born-again

Christians and prescribers of the virtuous life, but their street-level reputations preability to handle themselves cede them and their fight was always the main attraction on this show, not Hide's, nor the replacement headliner which sees Mexico's WBO superbantamweight champion. Marco Antonio Barrera, defend his title against the Liverpudlian challenger Paul Lloyd. Francis has done more than

3:52.31. Heat 3: 1 G Hackett (Aus)

3:40.67; 2 J Carştensen (Den) 3:46.04. Heat 4: 1 | Thrope (Aus) 3:43.35, 2 M

SPORTING DIGEST

against the unbeaten prospect Williams, 25, is more circum- was ever expected of him, but overwhelmed by a rampant denly it is being noticed that here he attempts to win outright ownership of a coveted Lonsdale Belt by winning his third British title fight. The contest was originally due to take place two months ago but. if anything, has become more

intriguing for it. When Williams withdrew with flu, the unbeaten and highly touted Nottingham heavyweight Pele Reid, Brendan Ingle-trained and explosive, stepped in. The champion had lost seven of his previous 25 fights and was expected to be

3 L Becerra (Sp) 2 28 7" GB: 5 L Hind-

marsh 2.30.87. Heat 3: 1 G Hull (Ch) 2 27.30; 2 E Austevoli (Nor) 2 27.37 GB: 5 H Earp 2:30.27. Heat 4: 1 M Tanaka

Reid. But Francis stopped Reid in three for a major upset. Prior to that fight, Williams

 unbeaten in 15 - had been expected to have little problem with Francis. But Reid's fate has changed the perception of the champion. Now it is not so much the losses on his record that are noted, but to whom those defeats occurred. Zeljko Mayrovic, Axel Schulz and Vitali Klitscko, to name three. are world-class fighters, while Brighton's Scott Welch is a former world title challenger Sud-

A Corretja (Sp) lost to G Kuerten 3-6 4-6

5-7 (Br) Scores tied 1-1. (Frankfurt, Ger) Germany v Russia: T Haas (Ger) beat M Safin 6-7 6-4 6-3 2-6 9-7 Ger-

many lead 1-0. (Trollhattan, Swe) Swe-

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1-0 (Harare, Zim) Zimbabwe v Aus-

tratia: B Black (Zim) bt M Philippous-sis 6-3 3-6 4-6 6-3 7-5. Zimbobwe lead

1-0 (Nimes, Fr) France v Nether ands: R Krajicek (Neth) bt J Golmard

(Fr) 3-6 4-6 7-6 6-4 6-2 Netherlands

(FI) 3-6 4-6 7-6 0-4 6-2 Nettertains lend 1-0 (Neuchstel, Swit) Smitzer-land v Italy: M Rosset (Swit) bt G Pozzi 7-6 6-4 7-6. (Birmingham, Eng): Britain v USA: J Courier (US) bt T Hen-

man (GB) 7-6 2-6 **7-**6 6-7 **7-**5. *USA lead*

(Christchurch, NZ) New Zealand v

kson 6-1 7-6 2-6 6-3 Slovakia lead

Williams's record contains no such names. Some even wonder whether this fight could turn out to be man against boy

However Williams, who is rumoured to have floored Hide in sparring recently, is the man on the up and has a considerable size advantage. This despite Francis's new-found success resulting in his being featured in adverts for bodybuilding supplements. Youth should prevail towards the end of this 12-rounder, but Williams will have to earn it.

RUGBY LEAGUE RESULTS

JJB SPORTS SUPER LEAGUE

Wigan (6) 12, St Helens (4) 14. Wigam Tries Florimo. Moore: Goals Farrell 2 St Helens: Tries Archeson, Iro. Sullivan, Goals Martyn, 16,283. London (6) 12, Hull (0) 10. London: Tries Fleming, Seibold: Goals Warton 2. Hull: Tries Learnam, Roberts; Goals Hai-

Salford (10) 22, Warrington (8) 26. Salford: Tries Alker 2. Briggs. Hulme: Goals Blakeley 3. Marrington: Tries Roach 2. Forster, Kohe-Love, Penny:

Goals Briers 3, 6,249. PWDLFAPts

NORTHERN FORD

R: Tries Gene, R Smith, Taewa; Goals Charles 5. York: Tries Goddard, Lambert Lancashire Lynx (8) 16, Barrow (26) Leigh (10) 22, Widnes (11) 23, Leigh: Tries Fairclough 2, Ingram, Street; Goals Wingheld 3, Widnes: Tries Cruchley 2, Cantillon, Salisbury: Goals Hewatt 3, Drop goal: Hewatt, 2,750. Swinton (10) 28, Rochdale (12) 24, Swinton: Tries Henare, McCabe, Price-Jones, Rodgers, Stevens; Goals Watson 4. Rochdale: Tries Cousins, Fitzgerald. Knowles Marsh: Goals Foy 4, 1,048. Workington (10) 30, Whitehaven (10)

Atkinson 3, Clark 3, Magorgian, Manihera. Salmon **Goals** Holt 11 350.

16. Workington: Tries Dempsey 2. Samuels, Stalker: Goals Close 7. Whitehaven: Tries Kitchen, Seeds: Goals Hetherington 3. Kitchen, 3,124.

TODAY'S NUMBER

The non-white

clubs who have resigned from the 15-team Namibian rugby league after a race row with their union.

Minus Commence

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BOXING The former heavyweight champion George Foreman has been subpoenaed to testify before a federal grand jury examining whether sanctioning organisations sold rankings and arranged fights in return for money. One area being investigated is whether the international Boxing Federation sold rankings and demanded money from promoters

and fighters.
THURSDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Pro-THURSDAY'S LATE RESILTS: Pro-fessional promotion (Aston VIIIa Leisure Centre, Birmingham) Grds High-middleumight: M Scriven (Not-tingham) by A Houldey (Tipton) pts: Grds Hight-middleumight: J Skeidon (Tipton) by K Lang (Kidderminster) pts. Middand uren welterweight championship: P Nightingale (Tipron) bt D Bell (Nottingaran) pts. Nightingales (Touch (Pathingaran) bt A Nother (Pathin) pts. (Fleshwood) br H Noter (Berlin) pts. Light-weight Championship of Great Britishe B Vanzle (Bradford) bt A Campbell (Shee-

Football Association press officer, Mike Parry, to head their communkadons and media strategy. Parry, 44, a former senior executive at the Press Association and with national newspapers, set up the FA's media office with David Davies in 1994-95.

THURSDAY'S LATE RESURTS: Bud-meiser Lasguar Edinburgh Rocks 73 Peu-geot. Bullets: Birmingham 67. Blad's Eurolanguar Omarcar-Runzi play-off: Pau-Orthez (F-1) 54 Kinder Bologna (h; 70. (Kinder Bologna meet Team System Bologna in the semi-finals in Munich on 20 April). 1994-95.
THURSDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Nadiometide League Second Division:
Gillingham 2 Reading 1. UniBond League
President's Cop Sami-final second-legs
Stalybridge 2 Droylsden 3 (Droylsden win
4-3 on aggregate). Challenge Cup fourth
round replant Farsley Celcic 0 Hucknall
Town 1. Rigman League Second Divisions
Mer Solica 1. Leightun Town (). Dutch Met Police 1 Leighton Town 0. Dutch League: MVV Massricht 0 Roda IC

GOLF

BIELSOUTH CLASSIC (TPC at Sugarloaf, Atlanta, Georgia) First round scores (US unless stated, 42 players still to complete first round); 63 D Waldorf; 64 G Walte (NZ); 65 R Sabbatini (SA); 66 D Durai, D Frost (SA), J Parnevik (Swe). 5 Maruyama (Japan): 68 G Day, 5 Kendali, B Fabel, Iim Gallagner, B Andrade, 5 Jones. Bradel, Im Galagner, Bancrace, Stokes. P Tatayrangi (NZ), K Sutherland, D Lower 69 N Paldo (GB), BR Brown, P Blackmar, S Flesch, S Dunlap, B Henninger, C Beck, K Wentworth, F Langham, M Weir, J L Levis. B Hughes (Aus): 70 B Gelberger. M Reid, I Woosnam (GS). T Dodds (Nam). N Begsy, B Friend, K Triplett, K Perry, E Toledo (Mex). S Verplank: 71 W Grady (Aus). D Toms, J Huston, C Smith, T Pernke, P Jordan, D Barr, G Hill, A Bratton B Tway. 5 Chilc 72 D Pride, D Stockton FOOTBALL

FOOTBALL

Former League Hall of Fame has appointed the former has a province the

Cochran, R Damron, T Loustalot, J Elliott, M Wiebe. T Schemer, G Sisk, D Briggs. C Raulerson, D Sutherland, R Allenby (Aus). MA Jimenez (Sp), C Pavin, L Janzo P Horgan, B Cheesman, P Azinger, M Cal-cavecchia, M Gill, T Purdy: 75 B Betes, A Bean, J Green, C Franco (Par), B Bryan Larry Rinker, JM Olazabai (Sp), F Nobi (NZ), W Wood; 76 M Ozaki (Japan). I Delsing: 77 J Godwin; 80 C Couch, Withdrews T Armour.

NHEL: Degroic 2 Los Angeles 1; NY Islander: 5 Florida 3; New Jersey 7 Anaheim 1; Oricago 2 Buffalo 1; Dallas 6 Tampa Bay 4: Toronto 6 Vancouver 5: Colorado 3 San

ICE HOCKEY

RUGBY UNION

Andrew Mehrtens, the All Black stand-off, led the Canterbury Crusaders to a 28-21 victory over the Australian Capital Territory Brumbies In their Super 12 match in Canberra last night. Mehrtens contributed 23 points to guide the defending Super 12 champions to their first victory on Australian soil. SUPER 12: (Camberra): Canterb Crusaders (NZ) 28 Australian Capital Ter

ritory Brumbies 21.

19 World Cup Semi-Rusis (Cardiff): New Zealand 21 Ireland 15; Wales 10 South Africa 10 (Moles win on countbook). SWIMMING WORKE SHORT COURSE CHAMPL ONSHIPS (Hong Kong): Men: 400m freestyle, Heat 1: 1 M Kwok (HK) 3mln 54.35sec; 2 B Morgan (US) 3:56.25. Heat 2: 1 E Brembilla (It) 3:44.50. 2 L

THURSDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Under

Rosolino (It) 3:43.88; 3 P Palmer (Gbr) 3:48.79. 4x200m freestyle relay. Heat 1: 1 Brazil (Saez, Castro Rocha, ston, Lupien, Say, Johns) 7:16.74, 3 Netherlands (Van der Zyden, Zuydweg. Wennekes, Willemse) 7:19:42. Heat 2: 1 Great Britain (Meadows, Spackman, Clayton, Sinclair) 7:11.60; 2 Russia (Kouzmin, Korshunov, Kaprakov, Egorov) 7:14.99 Final: 1 Netherlands (P Van Den Hoogenband, J Kenkhuls, M Zudyweg, M Mouda) 7mi 04.48sec; 2 Great Britain (G Meadows, S Brinn, P Palmer, E Sinclair) 7:07.20; 3 Canada (M Johnston, B Johns, R Say, Y Lupien) 7:08:02: 4 Russia (M Korshunov, D Kouzmin, A Egorov A Kapralov) 7:09.40. 200m backstroke, Heat 1: 1 L Diaz (Arg) 2 03 20. 2 W Nien-pin (Taiw) 2 03.93 Heat 2: 1 A Ruckwood (GB) 1:56.30, 2 L Cos-1:56.85 Heat 3: 1 | Warson (Aus) 1:55.07; 2 M Versfeld (Can) 1.55 47. 3 R Falcon (Cub) 1:56.12. Heat 4: 1 A Radley (Aus) 1:56 19; 2 S Ostaptchouk (Rus) 1:56.73; 3 M Machovic (Slovak) (Rus) 1:50.73; 3 m Mactions (Stode) 1:57.07. 100m butterfly: 1 L Frolan-der (Swej 51 45; 2 M Klim (Aus) 51 56. 3 J Hickman (GB) 51.60. 50m freestyle: 1 M Foster (GB) 21.81; 2 J Meolans (Arg) 21.84: 3 M Veens (Nern) 21 88 400n freestyle: 1 G Hackett (Aus) 3:35 01 (World record): 2 | Thorpe (Aus) 3:35 64. 3 M Rosolino (It) 3:42.81 GB: 6 P Paimer 3:46,34, 200m backstroke: 1 J Watson (Aus) 1:54 67, 2 M Versfield (Can) 1.55,42: 3 S Ostapchuk (Rus) 1:55.61; 5 A Ruckwood (GB) 1:56.04

Momen: 200m breaststroke, Heat 1:

1 YK Lei (HK) 2:41.73; 2 CW Lam (Mac) 2:42.25. Heat 2: 1 A Perzak (Pol)

2:25.72: 2 O Molchanova (Rus) 2:27.97.

(Japan) 2.24 15. 2 P Heyns (SA) 2.25 58 3 B Becue (Bel) 2:27 36 100m individual medley, Heat 1: 1 C Hiu-van (HK) 1:07 72: 2 C Pickering (Fiji) 1:08 40, 3 C Weng-rong (Mac) 1:08 91 Heat 2: 1 J Russell (SA) 1:02 75, 2 N kejzar (Sloven) 1:03:01. Heat 3: T M Moravcova (Sloval) 1:00:35: 2:0 Verenka (Rus) 1:02:36 Heat 4: 1 J Thompson (US) 59:30 provint record): 2 H Xue (Ch) 1,02:53, 3 A Windsor (Aus) 1:03.14. 100m freestyle: 1 J on (US) 53.24, 2 5 Voelker (Ger) 53 76, 3 \$ Rolon (GB) 53 78 (Bullish and ealth record) 100m backstroke: 1 M Nakamura (Japani 58 67 2 K Szefanyshin (Can) 1:00 48; 3 E Gammei (Can) 1:00.49. 200m breast-stroke: 1 M Tanaka (Japan) 2 20 22 2 P Heyns (SA) 2 24 27: 3 H Gi (Ch) 2.25.05 50m butterfiy: 1.1 Thompson (US) 26-18, 2.A hammerling (Swe) 26-21; 3.1 de Bruin (Neth) 26-41, 800m freestyle: 1.C Hua (Chri) 8 20 13: 2 P Harris (Aus. 8 23 36 3 F. Pigamonti. (Swig) \$-26.36. 4 N. Wieghuis (Neth) 8-29.41, 5 C. Geurts (Neth) 8-31.99. 6 l. Bourre (Fr) 8-37.05. 7 E. Pedrazzini (Aus) 8:37 07, 8 S Collings (GB)

WTA TOUR FAMILY CIRCLE CUP (Hilton Head, South Carolina) Nomen's singles third round: f Schnyder (Swit) bt I Majoli (Croa) 7-6 6-3 E Likhovtseva (Rus) hr M Seles (US) 7-6 5-7-7-5 6-3; M Hingis (Swit) bt C Mar DAVIS CUP: World Group first round: (Lielda, Sp) Spain v Brazil: C Moya (Sp) or F Meligen (Br) 6-2 6-2 6-0 6-4

Kazakhstan e Sri Lanka: A kedryuk (X32

South Korea: Lee Hyung-Taik (5 Kor) bt M Neilson. (NZ) 7-5 6-0 6-4: B Steven (NZ) bt Song Hyeong-Keun (S Nor) 6-3 6-4 6-4. Icams Irvel 1-1 Asia/Oceania zone playoff (Calcutta) India v China: L Paes (Ind) br Zhang Yu (Ch) 6-4 6-2 6-3; S Fazafuddin (Ind) bt Zhu Ben-qiang (Ch) 7-6 6-3 6-4 India lead 2-9. Asia/Oceania zone roup two second-round relegation playoff (Tokyo): Japan v Uzbel Suzpki (Japan) bt V Rutsenko (Uzb) 6-3 5-4-7-5 G Motomura (Japan) bt O Ogorodov (Uzb) 6-2-6-7-2-6-7-6. Japan KON 2-0 Asia/Oceania zone group two

bt A Iddumalgoda (5 Lanka) 6-3 3-6 6-0 6-4 P Baranov (kaz) 6t J Wijeyesekera (5 Lanua) 5-7 4-6 6-4 6-1 6-1 Kazakhstar eas: 10 Euro/African zone group on second-round (Helsinki) Finland israel: I ketola (Fin) lust to E Ran (Isr) 5 6 2 4 4 6 V Lusko (Fin) bt E Erich (Isr 6-1 6-1 6-3 Scores Am I I-I

lield. Sheffield v Huddersfield PREMIERSHIP

Hull K R (14) 22, York (6) 16. Hull K 58. Lancashire Lynx: Tries Soloman 2. Murray: Goals Murray 2. Barrow: Tries

FOOTBALL

RESULTS

NATIONWIDE

Nigeria to keep lights shining

NIGERIANS OFFICIALS were working feverishly at final preparations for the World Youth Cup yesterday to prove wrong critics who foresaw disaster if the tournament was held in Africa's most populous

Prostitutes and down-andouts have been cleared from the streets, police have stepped up night patrols to beat armed robbers and the National Stadium in Lagos has been given a fresh lick of paint ahead of the opening ceremony today.

"Everything will be ready before Saturday," said Alim Musa, one of the organisers in Lagos, where Nigeria kick off against Costa Rica to start the 24-nation competition which ends on 24

Organisers are confident seven other venues will also be ready on time. But despite assurances from Fifa, the game's world governing body. foreign players about a country with a reputation for political instability, violent crime, fuel and power shortages. tropical disease and transport

BY PAUL SHORT

bottled water to last throughout

Nigeria was stopped from hosting the tournament in 1995 because of security and health concerns. This time, authorities have had to ensure that ambulances and helicopters are on stand-by to evacuate players who are severely ill, and thus not have to take their chances in local hospitals.

"Fifa and the teams are concerned about our health facilities and we're ready to prove them wrong," Abdulsalami Nasidi, the head of the medical team for the event,

Following democratic elections in February, General Abdulsalami Abubakar's military government has made a successful Nigeria 99 its top prifears still abound among some ority before stepping down on 29 May in what will be an end to 15 years of army rule.

However, Nigerians worry that visitors will still find themselves plunged into darkness by power cuts and unable to get The South Korean team ar- around because of fuel short-

A Lagos signwriter applies the finishing touches to team banners for today's opening ceremony of the World Youth Cup in Nigeria

tators are lodged.

fineries in Africa's biggest oil

"We have been told to ensure there is power for all the venues so lights don't go out during the game, as well as places like hotels where a lot of people are gathered to watch," a senior official with the state power company, Nepa, confirmed. "We don't want to provoke a riot."

With few foreign supporters expected to attend the over a chaotic process to

go to Nigerians at a minimum of 250 Naira (£1.70) a seat - a high price in a country where most civil servants earn less than £1 a day.

But as workers hammer the last nails into the village of wooden kiosks and stalls being built for vendors, fans are complaining that the tickets have still not gone on sale.

Local journalists are bitter rived last weekend with enough ages due to the failure of re-event, most tickets are likely to accredit them for games. Even spot where dozens of beer par-

more unhappy are prostitutes. who have threatened nude protests at matches and in the streets after local organisers stopped them from soliciting in hotels where players and spec-

"Don't worry, the prostitutes have not gone. They have to be have more decently during the tournament," said Emmanuel Abudu, a car park attendant at Bar Beach, a notorious pick-up

the tournament. Poland's sports minister, Jacek Dembski, said vesterday

lours were buildozed ahead of

he would resign if the country's football authorities failed to elect new leaders within the next four months.

Dembski, who has repeatedly tried to force out the old guard from the Polish football association, the PZPN, over

he would leave his post if new leaders were not elected by 8 August

Fifa has given the PZPN until 8 April to comply with its regulations or risk the Polish national side being thrown out of the European Champi-

Poland, who are in England's qualifying group, lost 1-0 at home to Sweden on Wednesalleged financial mismanage day, four days after losing to ment and incompetence, said England at Wembley.

Scots open door to

reluctant Ferguson THE NEWCASTLE UNITED land Under-21 manager on the striker Duncan Ferguson is coaching staff at Newcastle, unlikely to return to the Scotas an intermediary to put the prospect of a Scotland comeland squad despite pleas from

> Scotland have a double header with the Faroe Islands and a second meeting with the Czech Republic in Prague in

Ferguson, who has never scored for Scotland, won the last of his seven caps in the goalless draw with Estonia in Monaco in February 1997.

Brown said: "I know that week but as things stand at the many people want Duncan to play for Scotland, his previous and current managers have said as much, so if he is fit I will make a representation to him. Brown was hoping to use The door is open for Duncan

SCOTTISH

SCREMPIX DIRECT LEAGUE Premier Division: Bideford 1 Barretaple Rown O: Caine Town 1 Westbury Utd 3: Chip-penham Town 0 Melisham Town 0: El-more 1 Therton Town 4: Keynsham Town 0 Bishop Sutton 2: Mangotsfield Utd 1 Bristol Manor Farm 3.

Campbell starts fresh contract talks

TOTTENHAM HAVE opened talks with Sol Campbell in an effort to secure his services beyond the two remaining years on his contract. And although the Spurs manager, George Graham, admits there could be "a big turnover" of players at White Hart Lane road After all I've still got two this summer. Darren Anderton years left on my present conand David Ginola could be the tract but I'm certainly willing to next to be offered longer deals. listen to any new ideas."

Anderton and Ginola will soon be into the final year of ters are out of my jurisdiction their current contracts and but I believe the club is having, nearing the stage where, under Bosman laws, they can be about his contract. Obviously, legally approached by other you want to keep your best playclubs who want to sign them once those deals expire. Both have indicated they

want to stay at Tottenham now that the club is back in Europe fer list. via victory in the Worthington

ZAFIRA. A work of genius.

BY BILL PIERCE

Cup final two weeks ago, and so has Campbell, whose agent, Skylet Andrew, has been at the

Campbell said: "We are still at an early stage of a very long Graham said: "These mat-

or will soon have, talks with Sol ers and as far as I'm concerned there is a future here for everyone apart from two or three we've already put on the trans-

"But it is no secret there is

going to be a big turnover of players at Spurs while I'm here. The main thing is that we need more of them because at the moment the squad is too small.

"Tve made very few changes in the team since I came here not been much room for change even though we've bought Tim Sherwood, Mauricio Taricco and Steffen Freund. I'm training with a squad of only about 18 senior players.

"We've got away with it so far, mainly because the walking wounded that always seemed to be here have suddenly got up and just walked. The treatment room is clear just now apart from the long-term injuries of John Scales and now Ramon Vega, but we may not always be so lucky.

EVAUXHALL

"Tm hearing some speculation we may have a possible three new signings in the summer but I'd hope for more than that - quite a few more.

"The chairman knows what I want for the future although in October because there has I haven't actually nominated any names yet because I'm still very much concerned with this season rather than next. home to Worthington Cup final We have just won one cup and victims Leicester City today are in the semi-finals of another and away to FA Cup semi-final And there are some very big games left in the league.

"But I think it is inevitable players will jump in and out of clubs with increasing frequency from now on. It has been happening on the continent for quite a while and it is accepted by the fans in Europe.

"The fans here in Britain haven't quite accepted players

swapping clubs one season after another but I think they'll have to get used to it because it will happen more and more."

Graham has denied suggestions there has been an approach from Kevin Keegan's Fulham for England striker Les Ferdinand.

Graham, whose side are at rivals Newcastle United on Monday, has already had a £4m offer for the West Ham midfielder Frank Lampard turned down, but he is sure to make a

fresh move. Graham has also been linked with the Norwich City forward Craig Bellamy and the Wolverhampton Wanderers striker Robbie Keane.

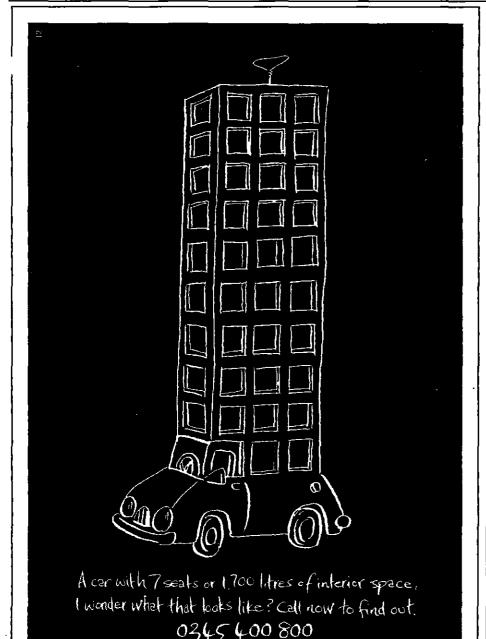
the national team manager, back to the player. Craig Brown, says the player's "As far as I am aware there's been no change in the circum-

agent, Blair Morgan. stances since Duncan wrote to June. the Scottish Football Association before the World Cup telling them he had retired from international football,"

said Morgan. "I am going to see him next moment he hasn't changed his mind and he doesn't intend to either," Morgan told the Scot-

tish Sun.

Tommy Craig, the former Scot- Ferguson if he wishes."



Rangers announce £3m trading loss RANGERS YESTERDAY anthe Uefa Cup has increased net prospect of competing at the tract in British football. The SCOTTISH PREVIEW nounced a 10.5 per cent inoperating expenses from last highest level. We believe that Rangers marketing and media

crease in turnover to almost £21 million - but a trading loss of just over £3m. The Scottish Premier

League leaders have spent £34m on new recruits, including the Scottish record fee of £5.5m to Fiorentina for Andrei Kanchelskis, since Dick Advocaat arrived as manager in the summer. He has brought in 12 new players to replace 20 of the BY KEN GAUNT

squad who left at the end of last

The Rangers chairman, David Murray, said: "Since the start of the financial year the club has made an investment in excess of £34m to recruit new players. The additional cost of these new players together with the costs associated with to give the club the realistic largest car sponsorship con-

year by £2,933,000, resulting in a trading loss of £3,090,000. After accounting for player registrations, interest and tax, the retained loss for the period is £6,294,000, an improvement on last year of £1,328,000."

Murray added: "The current cost arising from rebuilding the team under Dick Advocaat has been necessary

the cost of this investment for the future will provide the necessary returns both off and on the pitch."

The figures, for the seven months until 31 December last year, were announced on a day that Rangers secured a new three-year deal with Honda. No figures were announced although the club claim it is the

manager, Martin Bain, said: "There has been tremendous commercial growth at the club in the last four years, which has opened up many opportunities for our sponsors."

Rangers have a trip to St Johnstone tomorrow while champions Celtic must win at home to Dundee today to stand any chance of applying the

Likhovtseva's surprise for Seles

Pantani may snub Tour defence

ELENA LIKHOVTSEVA upset the second seed Monica Seles and Henrieta Nagyova eliminated the defending champion Amanda Coetzer from the Family Circle Cup on Thursday.

Neither Likhovtseva, a 23year-old Russian with seven vears on the tour, nor Nagyova. a 20-year-old Slovak with five years as a professional, is a fresh face on the circuit anymore but both players delivered significant victories to reach the quarter-finals at Hilton Head,

MARCO PANTANI, the Tour de

France winner, hinted that he

may not defend his crown this

year, choosing to concentrate on the Giro d'Italia instead. "I've

already started training again

after the fall I had in Spain," he

said, referring to an accident

that forced him out of the Cat-

"On Monday I leave to race

in the Tour of the Low Coun-

tries that lasts five days. It will

alonia Week race last week

By PETER IACOBELLI

Likhovtseva surprised Seles

7-6, 6-2 in the rain-delayed night match after Nagyova breezed past Coetzer, the fifth-seeded South African, 6-2, 6-3.

"She just played a lot better than I did," admitted Seles after falling to Likhovtseva. "After she won the first set, I definitely got down on myself, but she still played some great tennis."

The match score was the

BY BERT LAUWERS.

the Giro which, for me, re-

mains the most important

Pantani, who last August be-

came the first Italian since

Felice Gimondi 33 years ago to

win the world's most presti-

gious cycle race, said he ex-

appointment of the season."

match between the two players last month at Indian Wells, California, when Seles won. "It

was definitely a slower court. It was harder for me to finish off points on clay," Seles said.

Seles appeared to be overwhelming Likhovtseva at times with her two-fisted groundstrokes, only to see the Russian hit the lines or deliver a big serve, "I thought this time if I won the first set, the second set would be easier," said Likhovtseva, the tournament's 14th

pected to race in the Tour of

Spain and the World Champi-

onships in Italy later in the year.

surprise win in the Milan to

San Remo has whetted his

appetite for a triumph in to-

morrow's Tour of Flanders but

three compatriots, including

Johan Museeuw, are out to stop

him. "These races [Tour of Flan-

ders and the Paris-Roubaix next

week] are part of the sacred his-

The Belgian Andrei Tchmil's

mirror opposite of a hard-court seed and world-ranked 22nd. Nagyova earned a place in yesterday's quarter-finals

against the third-seeded Czech Jana Novotna, a 5-7, 7-5, 6-3 winner over the 13th seed, Silvia Farina of Italy. The top seed, Martina Hingis, beat the 10th seed, Conchita Martinez, 7-5, 6-1, the previous day.

"Last year I didn't win against a player in the top 10 and now I beat Monica [Seles] two weeks ago and now Amanda." Nagyova said.

Results, Digest, page 25

name in the history books," said

the veteran Tchmil. He believes

his experience could play a

decisive role in tomorrow's race

Another Belgian, TVM's

in the northern half of Belgium.

Peter Van Petegem, is also

among the favourites. He won

the three-day De Panne race.

that was interrupted by a dop-

ing scandal, in the same region

Storm coach leaves home dispute alone

ICE HOCKEY

BY IAN PARKES

THE MANCHESTER STORM coach, Kurt Kleinendorst, has avoided an end-of-season confrontation with Superleague administrators on the eve of this weekend's play-off finals.

Manchester, the reining champions, have been denied use of their home dressingroom for the first semi-final against Cardiff Devils at the Manchester Arena, after losing a coin toss. Just two weeks ago, Sheffield Steelers were the "away" side for the Challenge Cup final against Nottingham Panthers at the Sheffield Arena, vet were allowed to remain in

their own changing area. "The league has made it as in-convenient as possible for us," kleinendorst said. "But what is the point in arguing with them." In the second semi-final the Panthers will start as favourites

to beat the surprise team of

play-offs, Bracknell Bees. .

DEPENDENT

SCOND DIVISION

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THE SWEEPER

BY CLIVE WHITE AND MATT GATWARD



Rennie bellyache for Stocksbridge

under fire from some Premiership managers this season, has now upset one or two in the non-League game. Following his controversial dismissal of Arsenal's Emmanuel Petit, along with Don Hutchison, at Goodison Park the other week Rennie took charge of a Sheffield Senior Cup quarter-final between

two players and booked eight. Alan Bethel, the chairman of Stocksbridge, who had the two players sent off, said: "His performance was not up to the required standard. Some of his decisions left both sides bemused."

Worksop and Stocksbridge Park

Steels in which he sent off another

The Jamaican-born Rennie, who lives in Sheffield, had an outstanding first season in the Premiership last year but has come in for heavy criticism this year, most notably from Dave Jones, the Southampton manager, and more recently Arsenal's Arsène Wenger. Following Petit's dismissal - his fourth in English football - the Frenchman is said to be considering his future in the game in this country. This season Rennie has booked

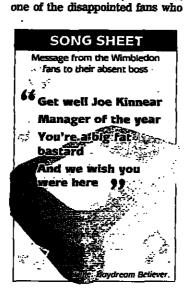
90 players, more than any other Premiership referee, and sent off 19. A karate black belt first dan, kickboxing instructor and magistrate, no one messes with Rennie. He once said in an interview: "Refereeing is not just about interpreting the rules, it's the use of life skills. I see myself as an arbitrator. I'm not there to trip players up. I'll explain a decision when asked. They may not agree and know my word is final, but it helps to create an empathy."

Not everyone, though, has had a bad word for him recently. Paul Mitchell, the Worksop manager, said: "Uriah is an excellent ref and I've no complaints at the way he handled the game. My players who got booked will be fined."

A MAN who in his time crowds than Pele, Bobby who is arguably worth more in monetary terms than any player alive, certainly in the City Traders' League, came on to the sound of silence as a late substitute

URIAH RENNIE, whose born pop singer Robbie Williams, dedication of the fans and the attirefereeing has come who failed to score in the 4-0 away win against Lloyds Midland, had good reason for wanting to keep his head down - he was supposed to be at home in bed recovering from the viral infection which had forced

him to cancel his continental tour. A spokesman for Williams' management company said in the Evening Sentinel story: "He was ordered to rest because the doctor felt that to have carried on would have prolonged his illness. It may well be that by the Sunday he was feeling better." Paul Bateman, of Hanford.



four days earlier had travelled to Paris to see Williams, said: "I should have thought he should have given himself a full body rest rather than running round a football pitch."

ROBBIE WILLIAMS may be Port Vale's most famous fan but if the name of the Potteries club ever ends up on the lips of millions it could be because of the exploits of another pop performer. While in the process of formation, a three-piece American rock band who were rather taken by has attracted bigger the name of "port" decided to trawl the pair being quoted at 11-10 joint Chariton or Ronaldo and the Port Vale web-site. "We liked the motion to the Third Division next word 'port'," said Texan singer Lance Walker, "and when I began reading the Port Vale website I liked everything I saw about the team, especially the fact that there for Silverstone FC at Newcastle- didn't seem to be any big stars, just under-Lyme last Sunday. Tunstall- a bunch of guys playing hard. The

tude of the team made us feel that Port Vale was a name we could feel good about using." The group, based in Houston, are about to begin a national tour. Who knows, one day Port Vale might even come up against St-Etienne - the pop group not the French football team.

OF COURSE, it is not the

first time that football has been a source of inspiration for the pop world. Remember the number, "Cheer Up, Peter Reid", which actually made the charts? Well, the same Sunderland group who called themselves Simply Red and White have followed it up with another number entitled "Disco Pants", which has been inspired by their lanky striker Niall Quinn -"Niall Quinn's disco pants are the best/they stretch up from his arse to his chest" or words that go something like that. The song, which is to be released on Monday, will be given a live airing by the group, who now call themselves Love Supreme, at the Stadium of Light on 24 April when Sunderland play Sheffield United. The song has been regularly chanted at the stadium since a group of Manchester City fans told a local fanzine that they sang it to Quinn at Maine Road.

Kippax humour, of course, is well known, as Coronation Street's Curly, alias Kevin Kennedy, told listeners on Jim White's Radio Five programme, Dream Team, on Monday, He recalled an occasion when Terry Phelan was once substituted and the Kippax, in tune to "That Loving Feeling", sang: "We've lost that Terry Phelan" - and as he was replaced by Michael Vonk, added: "...and now he's Vonk, Vonk, Vonk...'

IT'S MORE about top of the table than top of the pops in the Conference today when new leaders Rushden & Diamonds receive Cheltenham Town, the internet and stumbled across favourites by Ladbrokes to win proseason. But for their 3-2 defeat at Hednesford last week, Steve Cotterill's side would have been travelling to Nene Park buoyed by an unbeaten away run of nine games. Brian Talbot's Rushden are un-

AS YOU WERE



Liverpool (above with the European Cup) were an open-topped limousine of a side who, with the unflappable Mark Lawrenson

the killer instinct of a lightly tossed salad, the duty of bringing the ultimate club prize back to Eng-(third from right, back row) at the Manchester United, who take on as his defending ever was.

transferred his laid-back manner from the pitch to the television studio where his playful banter with land has fallen on the shoulders of Des and Alan is as easy on the eye

THE PRICE IS RIGHT

out in force last Satthree goals (two of which were not handballs; to one and poor minority groups such as the "long-term value-seeking punter society" (of which The Sweeper is president) came in for unfair persecution from jingoistic brain doners. We'll be back - there's still more chance of The Sweeper

pear on the betting front in the last a nifty £50 up after tax, with a portfolio of tasty ante-post bets still running. Let's give the bookies six happy Valley for Charlton. Leeds

THE PATRIOTS were doubling the kitty to end the sea- can inflict more misery on Notson on £200-plus than there is of tingham Forest at Elland Road, (20 £1 trebles with Stanley); Chelsea to urday after England England winning Euro 2000. And while Liverpool may be held to a win at Charlton (4-6); Leeds to heat Nothad beaten Poland by while things have assumed a draw by Everton in the Mersey- ingham Forest (1-3); Liverpool to draw shape not dissimilar to that of a side derby at Anfield. Strugglers with Everton (9-4): Sheffield Wednesday Sheffield Wednesday and Covenfew weeks, we're still more than try may also fight out a draw at Hillsborough, Arsenal - who we've got 🖾 on at 5-1 for the title - can gun down Southampton at of the best today, starting with The Dell but Manchester United Chelsea, who can make it an un-may only draw at Selhurst Park against Wimbledon.

to draw with Coventry (12-5): Arsenal to win at Southampton (4-6); Wimbledon to draw with Manchester United (5-2). ORIGINAL BANK: £100.

CURRENT KITTY: £150.90! -------TODAY'S BETS: £21.80 (inc. tax).

MASCOT ON THE MAT

Name: Marvin the Moose Club: Cambridge United Appearance: Six foot amber

and black moose Crime sheet: These are heady days at the Abbey Stadium and Marvin just can't get a grip of his emotions. This unmissable moose has been the recipient of many stern lectures from the powers that be after en-

couraging - by use of a rapid moose-hoof gesture - the fans to speculate about the referee's favourite solo hobby. Never one to hide his disgust with officialdom, he also has a predilection for suggesting the referee is in the same league as Stevie Wonder in the being-able-to-see-what's-going-on department. Marvin's over-elaborate goal celebrations are also incurring the wrath of the stadium manager. In the running for Groundsman of the Year, he is sick of repairing moose belly-slide damage covering his otherwise pristine turf.

In mitigation, your Honour: Moose are a rare species this side of the Atlantic and the elk, their closest relative in Europe, is used for little more than throwing in front of speeding Scandinavian cars to test their steering, so the fact that Marvin has landed a job as a Third Division football club mascot must be slightly confusing for him.

MY TEAM

beaten at home in six.



TOM WATT ARSENAL

Writer and actor appearing in No exp reqid at **Hampstead Theatre Club**

'I grew up in Holloway in the days when you supported your local team. My mates were all going to Arsenal so I made my dad take me. In 1971 I saw us win the Double and then got season tickets. I've been in that seat ever since. My greatest hero is Liam Brady, who would walk into any team anywhere at any time. Watching today's team is a genuine delight and Arséne Wenger is almost a divine being - except he signed Gilles Grimandi. I would like more local boys in the side but that will change. The future isn't necessarily in foreigners. The atmosphere changed with the all-seater. When you stand you participate; when you sit you spectate."

IN T'NET

Found on the Web: Statto.com IF YOU'RE partial to a little flutter on the weekend

footy but don't want to associate yourself with shady far-eastern businessmen or unscrupulous ground staff for your inside information, pay a visit to Statto.com. This site, which covers all the clubs from the English and Scottish leagues, is geared to putting a stop to the "pin the tail on the donkey" method of gambling. There are comprehensive home and away form guides and tables for all competitions. You can uncover the highest scoring team on the road or the leakiest defence at home. There are even club versus club guides, all at the click of a mouse. Plans are also underway to add forecast fixed odds and available spread bets for forthcoming games so that you can waste your hard-earned cash accordingly. Statto.com has all the intelligence you need to make your first million within a week. William Hill must be quaking in his boots. http://www.statto.com/index.html

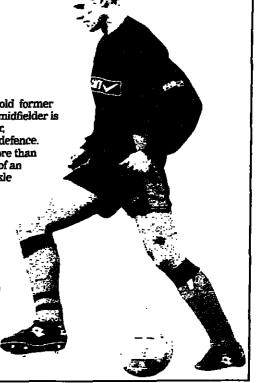
SEEN BUT NOT BOUGHT

THE MIDDLESBROUGH Easter Teddy bear comes with a a bar of milk chocolate and a chocolate football to boot (or eat) - all for just a tenner or. alternatively, two for £20.

THEY'RE **NOT ALL DENNIS** BERGKAMP

Unsung foreign

legionnaires No 33 SIGGI JONSSON: The 32-year-old former Sheffield Wednesday and Arsenal midfielder is plying his trade north of the border. sweeping behind the Dundee Utd defence. An Icelandic international with more than 50 caps - despite being the victim of an over-zealous Graeme Souness tackle in his early days - Jonsson is captaining the side which, after holding the World Cup-winning French team and thrashing the less than mighty Andorra, are handsomely placed in their Euro 2000 qualifying group. Although old father time has eroded Jonsson's ability to get from box to box, his footballing brain is in full working order. A bargain from Orebro, Sweden in 1997, Jonsson, calm and sophisticated, brings a ray of sunshine into a dull and



Old loyalties down Cricklewood way

YOU DON'T have to support a team to follow their fortunes. Despite supporting Luton actually, it's probably because I support Luton - the arrival of the Sunday papers always finds me seeking out the results of a handful of other teams. Ajax, because my mother is Dutch; Alloa, because I love the name; but first and foremost, Hendon

Why Hendon? Because I was born and raised in Hendon, got kicked out of two schools in Hendon (you'd have to Real Cricklewood, perhaps thought Canberra Infants would have tipped the wink to Hasmonean Prep) and, but for an attitude next to which Stan Collymore looks like Sir Cliff Richard, I might just have

and a handful of reserve team games at Hendon FC.

actually play in Hendon, their Claremont Road ground occupying a windy comer of Clitterhouse Recreation Ground at the Brent Cross end of Cricklewood. With a post code of London NW2, the local estate agents try to pass it off as Golders Green. But whichever way you cut it, it is Cricklewood, and if I were chairman I'd not hesitate to change the club's name

even Clitterhouse Hotspur. Certainly Hendon need a change of one sort or another. For so long as I can recall, and I was with them 30 years ago, Hendon have resided nowhere

Technically Hendon do not FAN'S EYE **VIEW**

> HENDON BY Peter

Moss the league known variously as Athenian, Isthmian, Icis, Diadora, Isthmian (again). Ryman and perhaps one or two other variants that I have clean

forgotten to mention. Don't get me wrong, I'm all for consistency and to occupy a relegation-free zone for all lasted beyond my 17th birthday other than the top division of those years is highly com- way.

mendable. Trouble is it has been promotion-free too, and three or more decades at the same level, playing largely the same teams, is a bit bloody boring and shricks of a severe hardening of ambition arteries.

With the pyramid system as it now exists you might have expected a concerted push or two towards the Conference, and thence upwards to the land of the big boys. The likes of Hayes, Kingstonian and Woking have it part of the way: Enfield and Sutton have yoyoed like a mad yo-yoing thing between Isthmian and Conference leagues since I can't remember when; while Barnet, Wycombe and, most gloriously, Wimbledon have made it all the

formative years for the FA Amateur Cup final, twice emerging triumphant. A dressing-room full of soon-to-be top-

class players, among them the Luton-bound Peter Anderson. the England-bound Tony Curone of whom was sufficiently waves for West Ham United We even have a banqueting

suite that is the envy of all banthis is a corner of north-west

So why not Hendon? Our London where wedding and history in semi-pro football is barmitzvah parties proliferate just as illustrious as the others. in such abundance, causing perhaps more so. Five times such ructions between rival visitors to Wembley during my gangs of caterers, that it is a wonder Don King hasn't been called in to promote inter-firm catering fights.

dreary league.

Yet still we find ourselves up against Purfleet and Billericay instead of well... Peterborough and Brentford at the rie. both Compton brothers very least. Am I that bothered? Not really. After all, I brassed off with Hendon to don't actually support Hentake up cricket) and, most don, I just follow them. But with recently. Joe Cole, now making Luton in a state of near terminal disarray - was there and the England youth team. ever a club more wilfully bent on self-destruction? - and Hendon beginning to string a few queting suites. And, remember. results together, who knows? Things might change.

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

Don't you get knighted if you score a hat-trick at Wembley? Kevin Keegan, on Paul Scholes' three goals against Poland

That stands for Motivated Person, guru of personal re-invention, Mr Mac Motivator, on the

description of himself on his business card as 'Watt Nicoli MP"

I'm going to get my teeth fixed then open an account with Ladbrokes. Jockey Jamie Osborne, on announcing his retirement

I never asked to be a hero. I've never been asked to be put up there. I've never portrayed myself as being perfect. Will Carling

I felt no pain at all. There was just a warm feeling where my ear was. I put my hand up and then blood started rushing out. Rugby union player Steve Pearce, of Whitland in the Welsh National League. whose ear was ripped off when it got caught in anoth er player's shorts pocket

I was freaking out. They were in a feeding frenzy just beneath me. Surfer Taj Burrow after sharks interrupted the

final of the Masters tournament in Australia Being inside has given me a

fresh perspective on life. Dean Reynolds, who was released from prison to take part in the World Snooker Championship qualifiers this week

Premiership: Goodison's coveted left-back is keen to extend Everton's recent mastery of the Merseyside derby

Ball still believes in a blue heaven

BY GLENN MOORE

THIS AFTERNOON Michael Ball will be running out at Anfield in the blue of Everton. Nothing new there then, old Liverpool hands will note: he used to wear Everton blue when he was at the Reds' School of Excellence.

Cheeky? Well, he did not always wear blue; sometimes he would turn up in the greenand-white hoops of Celtic. One such day, he recalled this week. Graeme Souness, the then-Liverpool manager, had a quiet word with him.

"He said: 'I've some advice for you, son. I'm Scottish, you've got an England trackie on. I'm Liverpool, you support Everton, and I was manager at Rangers and you've got a Celtic kit on. Work that one out.' I thought: 'Td best be on my way from here'."

It was under Souness that Ball did leave Liverpool, where he had been training alongside Michael Owen since they were both eight years old, to sign schoolboy forms for Everton. He is quick to point out, however, that he was neither

'At Liverpool, Graeme Souness told me to go with my heart. My dream was to play for Everton'

thrown out by Souness nor ran away from him.

"I was 13 and also had trials with Manchester United, Everton and Oldham. Souness called me in and I was a bit nervous because he had a bit of a reputation but he was very good with me He said: 'Go with your heart. I don't want to force you to do anything because if you sign for us and your heart's not in it you probably won't fulfil yourself.'

"I sat back and thought what my dream was, and that was to play for Everton.

Thus Ball, unlike fellow Evertonians Owen, Ian Rush, Robbie Fowler and Steve McManaman, kept the faith and was not lost to the "wrong" side of Stanley Park. There are seeing Everton embroiled in what has become for two matches missed an annual relegation battle. who will say he made the wrong decision. But no one could argue that the 19-year-old has not flourished in the Blues' blue period.

Given a debut during Dave Watson's caretaker-management in April 1997, he soon impressed with his cool head and assured technique. He survived on the last day, he became established last season, went to Cyprus with the

ZAFIRA. A work of genius.



Ball winner: Liverpool's Vegard Heggem is left trailing by Michael Ball in last October's Merseyside derby at Goodison Park, which finished goalless

back, left wing-back, centreback and midfield and, except through suspension, has been ever-present this came primarily at wing-back.

Five Under-21 caps have followed and he was in line for a senior call-up prior to a recent dip in form. This, he admits, was caused by fatigue.

After a tense finish to last season, during which Everton

moving easily between left- national Under-18 team. Another demanding campaign has followed. "It's been a long seame," Ball said. "I tried to fight it off by sleeping all the time but it was just too many matches.

"The boss [Walter Smith. who said he would have liked to rest Ball, but could not afford to] gave me a few days off, which was helpful, and I'm happy with my form now. I felt fresh with England [Under-21] last week and I'm feeling good for the derby."

EP VAUXHALL

Raising the Standard

He will need to. "They are Campbell arriving at Goodison son and it just caught up with so quick. Even having foreign players doesn't seem to have get told, by friends and players, what it's about. They know what's at stake: when the new

> fixture list comes out it's the first match you look for." For locals like Ball the match is the easy bit. The problem is getting enough tickets to supply family and friends. With Scot Gemmill and Kevin

amazing to play in, totally dif- this week, Ball was quick to try ferent football gets played. It is and secure some extras but found they had already been

> tuated by their good derby record: they have not lost to Liverpool, home or away, for more than five years. "We've done well the last

> couple of seasons so I hope we can carry on," Ball added. "We need the points more than Liverpool do."

Last year Everton stayed up

by virtue of a last-day point at scored a paltry 23 in 30 games, the worst record in the division. home to Coventry. This year Ball, with two goals, is only a their final match is at The Dell. brace behind his side's leading "We don't want another one like last year, oh no." Ball said. strikers, Ibrahima Bakayoko I played there with England last week and it doesn't look the best

iust have to make sure we get the points in our home games. That's been our problem - scoring at home." Or away. Everton have conceded fewer goals, 35, than

Ball, whose father played for Liverpool reserves, grew up place to go as an away team. We admiring the contrasting in- all the papers have stories fluences of Paolo Maldini, of about directors and that, I'd

Milan - "for his passing with rather read about which both feet" - and Pat Van Den Hauwe, of Everton - "for his tackling. My dad was a bit of a tackler, so he'd tell me to watch fifth-placed West Ham but have Pat."

Everton's impressive youth system and international matches have furthered his education. "The England games have been good experience – the football's very different. We played Russia's Under-18s, they looked big, strong lads and we thought, This I be a physical game. But once you touched them, they were rolling all over the place. It's just cheating, but a clever way of cheating and they were getting away with it."

He added, poignantly in view of current events in the Balkans, "Then when we went to Yugoslavia the environment was a bit different, even then there were wars going on and we were all a bit nervous. We

kept ourselves to ourselves." Back home Ball has been linked with a series of clubs, notably Manchester United and Arsenal who, aware of Everton's financial crisis, sense an opportunity to secure a longterm replacement for Denis Irwin or Nigel Winterburn. Evertonians will be relieved to hear that Ball, while flattered, is in no hurry to leave.

'Instead of stories about our directors, I'd rather read about which superstar we're signing next'

"They are two of the biggest clubs in England and it is a bit of a confidence booster but I just want to play for Everton. The only way I'd leave at the moment is if they wanted to sell me because I don't want to go.

"I do have to think of my career. I want to start winning silverware, not be fighting relegation every year, but that's something to consider in a few years' time. I'd like to help Everton get back to how we were in the 1980s, being in Europe, winning the FA Cup. challenging for the league. It's partly a matter of confidence. We need to stay up, make some signings in the summer - if we can get the money together. and make a good start next

"If we get some money together..." Everton's players would certainly be helped by a ship problems. "When players are down on a Sunday morning

superstar we're signing next." Amen to that, comes the Evertonian chorus, just so long as it is not financed by selling one of their own.

United revitalised by break

IT SAYS something about the BY GUY HODGSON acquisitiveness of Manchester United that they can stop playing for a fortnight and still win honours. Alex Ferguson was awarded the freedom of Aberdeen last week while Dwight Yorke got the keys of Port of Spain on a trip to Trinidad and Tobago which prompts the question what will they achieve when they make it to the pitch.

We will have a better idea by a week tomorrow because by then United will have met Wimbledon in the Premiership. Juventus in the Champions League and Arsenal in the FA Cup and the treble will either be in sharper focus or have disappeared.

United meet Wimbledon at Selhurst Park today with Ferguson believing his men have benefited from the commitments that halted play in the Premiership. "The lads are buzzing after their time away." he said. "The international breather has given them a chance to get away from the pressures of the club and all the challenges here.

"Most of them did well and the England lads in particular are on top of the world. The only one who returned without a win was Peter Schmeichel, but I watched Denmark's 2-1 defeat by Italy and, to be honest, the Danes battered them. They were really unlucky to lose."

United will attempt to extend a 19-match unbeaten run without Jaap Stam and Ryan Giggs while Wimbledon, who have not won a point since beating Sheffield Wednesday on the night manager Joe Kinnear had a heart attack, will hope the challenge of meeting one of the Premiership's better teams will halt a three-match sequence of defeats. "The way we've been

playing we need something to spark us," their midfielder Robbie Earle said. "It will be a big atmosphere, a full house against arguably the best team in the country. I know our players will raise their game." So will Southampton, who

meet United's closest challengers, Arsenal, believing The Dell will be the key if they are to survive. They are unbeaten at home in 1999 and will be facing the champions who are bereft of Dennis Bergkamp (virus) and Emmanuel Petit (suspended) and could also be without Marc Overmars (injured). In contrast Chelsea, the

PETER REID is keeping the

champagne on ice until Sun-

derland have clinched promo-

tion to the Premiership. The

Wearsiders need 10 points from

their last eight games to math-

ematically guarantee them-

selves a place in the top flight

but only two more victories

success at home to West

Bromwich Albion today, where

they will try to equal a club

record of 11 successive home

wins. Reid, the Nationwide

manager of the mouth for March

after five straight wins, said: "We had a terrific month last month

but we've still got a job to do and

the time for celebrating will be

of proving to be a bit of a jinx

in the game that follows but I'll

risk that, considering we've

had to play very well to get the

"These awards have a habit

when we've won promotion.

Sunderland look for another

are likely to be enough.

third team in the championship equation, have good news regarding injuries for the visit to Chariton and Gustavo Poyet could return after three months on the sidelines. "We've got an easier run-in than the other three clubs," the Chelsea chairman, Ken Bates, said yesterday. "Leeds have to come here next month so if we beat them we'll kill them off and definitely be in

the Champions' League." Fourth-placed Leeds, whose David O'Leary was named manager of the month yesterday, have been compared to Don Revie's great side of the 1970s in recent weeks and they can match the 1973-4 champi-

Reid wary of award 'jinx'

NATIONWIDE

PREVIEW

Oxford United play their first

match since the London

hotelier Firoz Kassam took

over the club, at home to Bolton

Wanderers. The Oxford man-

ager, Malcolm Shotton, who

gives Swedish goalkeeper Paul

Lundin his debut, said: "Now

we've got a solid base, we can

look forward to going forward

and hopefully that will be in the

First Division. It will be a full

house and it will be great to

show Mr Kassam how wel-

come he is by getting three

solidate their position in the

play-off positions after a poor

spell and the manager, Colin

Todd, admitted: "It's impor-

tant we get back on the winning trail. This is a crucial time of the

Bolton are looking to con-

points in the bag."

BY MARK PEIRSON

their seventh successive victo- McPhail is on international ry when they meet Nottingham duty with the Republic of Ire-Forest this afternoon.

"It's been a long, long time since our profile was so high and with so many people talking about us in such glowing terms," O'Leary said. "It's reflected in the fact we're on Sky TV so much and also in the crowds."

At home against the Premiership's whipping-boys ought to be a straightforward task, but Leeds' ranks are depleted. David Batty and Alfie Haaland are suspended for one match, with the latter having also been fined £2,500 by an FA disciplinary panel this week onship winners if they record for 11 bookings, while Steve

season and we have every-

thing to play for. I just want us

to go out and try to relax and

continue to play good football." Bristol City have a crucial

game at home to fellow strug-

He said: "It is a massive six-

Manchester City and Wigan

Athletic at Maine Road, with the

Latics looking to move closer to

City visit Cambridge United in

a top-of-the-table meeting, while

their east coast rivals Hull City

and Scarborough meet at

Boothferry Park as they try to

move clear of the relegation

In the Third Division Cardiff

freshen us up.

the play-off places.

land in the World Under-20 Championship in Nigeria.

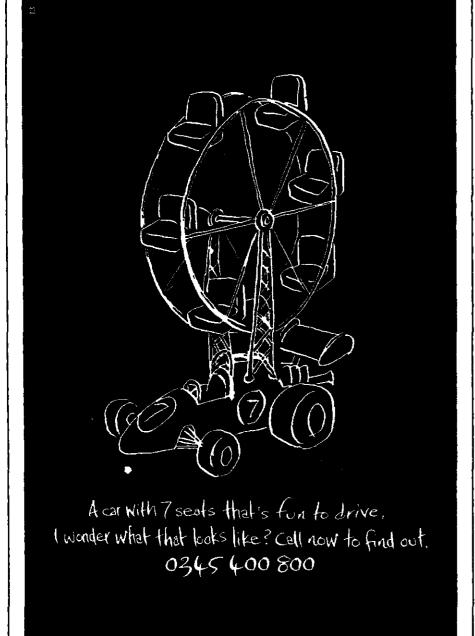
Liverpool used to expect to be in the top four but not these days and supporters have been left contemplating a miserable season of no honours and no European place with the reflection: "There's only two games left for us now."

They mean home games against their bitterest rivals, Everton and Manchester United, but juicy targets that they are, these opponents reflect Liverpool's weakness: an inability to win matches that count. It is more than five years since Everton, who take the quick trip across Stanley Park today, lost a Merseyside derby while United have not lost to

them since December 1995. They say that form does not count in Merseyside derbies, for which both sides must be truly grateful. Everton were lamentably negative at Old Trafford a fortnight ago while Liverpool cannot welcome the close sea-

glers Port Vale, whose son soon enough. manager, Brian Horton, could "People keep mentioning give debuts to four new players. our record against Liverpool, so we are aware of it," Walter pointer but it is not just about Smith, the Everton manager, this game; there's still a lot of said. "but it won't matter when work to do. I hope the new boys we kick off. If anything, it can add to Liverpool's determina-The game of the day in the tion to do well." Second Division is between

Middlesbrough will be equally determined at Ewood Park and not just because a win would push Blackburn deeper into trouble and themselves further from it. This fixture was the one they failed to turn up for two seasons ago because of illness and the three points they were docked as a consequence caused them to spend a season in the First Division.



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Derby y Newcastie

Blackburn

Middlesbreugh

Charlton Y

Chelsea

Nottingham Fore

verton's unpressive jour em and international ches have in thereo he cation The England es have been good expen : - the football's here di nt We played pustant errors they do not less they looked big and we thought the property of th ril be a private all same by : You touched them the e rolling all over the place just cheating, but a dese of cheating and they see e added porgramming intent events - the Balin Then when we ken h nainvia the environment a hit different even tien 6 Acts 3.5 2002 of all reas an spiration of ourselves to ourselve ack home Ball has been Martin a series of chip, in y Manchester United and med who, aware of Feb. s financial cris.: sense a outinity to senie a love a replacement for Date in or Nige: Winterpurp rtonians will be relieved to e that Ball, while fattered no hurry to leave

Instead of stories bout our directors I rather read about tich superstar here Signing read

They are to come organ win Angund midusen LEADING TO BE THE TAIL WARD to Tay on Blanch und was in leave with bendadie 12 no vannige I so have to puts the Mark Delta Comme tent salem ning but then where to some accuracy. pe mer lin das mass Moneylo et mad wan the 1960 empr tigle, washing the Editor. Benger to receive the Land to the Condition ENGLISHED OF THE STEE ณ์และเมื่อ -เฮนเฮ-2∓8 **医** 🛊 got er eine miner

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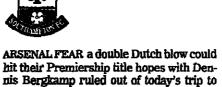
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Weekend guide to the Premiership



Southampton v Arsenai





Southampton and Marc Overmars rated "a serious doubt." Bergkamp and Overmars played in Holland's midweek friendly against Argentina. Bergkamp managed only 75 minutes and was taken ill in the night after the game with a virus that has kept him out of training since. Overmars, who played for just an hour, had to come off with the pain of infected blis-

ters on both feet.

You can see why I'm not a fan of international football, especially friendly matches at this time of year," said the Arsenal manager, Arsène Wenger, who is already

By Graham Snowdon

without the suspended Frenchman Emmanuel Petit for the next three games.

The reserve goalkeeper Alex Manninger has added to Wenger's woes after dislocating a wrist in training - stopping a shot from David Seaman as they practised together. The young Austrian is out for the season and 38-year-old John Lukic takes over as deputy on the bench.

Bergkamp's absence tomorrow is likely to give the Nigerian striker Nwankwo Kanu only his second Arsenal start although Frenchman Kaba Diawara is also in contention. Fredrik Ljungberg, fresh from his winning goal for Sweden against Poland in

midweek, is likely to come in for Petit as struggling side, whose home form remains Stephen Hughes is only just out of plaster after fracturing an arm.

The good news is that the captain, Tony forced him to drop out of England's game

The Southampton manager, Dave Jones, has a selection crisis with five first team squad members missing either through injury or suspension. Goalkeeper Paul Jones and midfield player Matthew Oakley are injured while Matthew Le Tissier. Chris Marsden and Hassan Kachloul are suspended. Ken Monkou, the Saints defender, believes

the key to their Premiership survival hopes. "We are unbeaten in our last five games at The Dell and we've not lost at home so

Adams, looks a certain starter following six far this year," Monkou said. "Teams don't days of rest for his troublesome back which seem to find it easy coming to The Dell to play and that's the way we like it." Mark Hughes is expected to return to mid-

field while the Latvian striker Marians Pahars, 22, is expected to make his debut.

SOUTHABITON (From): Moss. Dodd. Colleter, Monkou, Lundelwam, Ripley, M Hughes. D Hughes, Bridge, Ostensad, Beartie, Pahars, Oakley, Hirst, Hiley, Benafi, Gibbens, Stensgaard.

ARSENAL (from): Seaman, Dixon, Keown, Adams, Winterburn, Ljungberg, Parlour, Vieira, Kanu, Vivas, Overmars, Anelka, Diawara, Bould. Grimandi, Boa Morre, Luikic (GK). Arsenal will still find it tough against his

Les Ferdinand performed

goalscoring feat when he

Queen's Park Rangers in 1993

hit two hat-tricks for

the Premiership's most

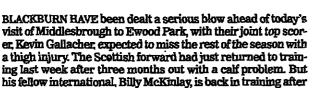
remarkable Easter





Blackburn v Middlesbrough

Last season: no fixture



a lengthy absence due to a groin injury. The Blackburn manager, Brian Kidd, is still waiting on the fitness of central defender Stephane Henchoz, who suffered back and groin injuries playing for Switzerland in their Euro 2000 qualifying win over Wales on Wednesday. Chris Sutton and Lee Cars-

ley are both doubtful with groin and ankle injuries respectively. Middlesbrough welcome back their defender Gary Pallister after absence through suspension and injury. The former Manchester United player is expected to make an immediate return to the starting line-up with Gianluca Festa, Steve Vickers and Robbie Mustoe all suspended from Bryan Robson's side. BLACKBURN (from): Filan, McAteer, Henchoz, Peacock, Taylor, Davidson, Gillesple, Johnson, Dunn, Marcolin, Wilcox, Duff, Sutton, Ward, Jansen, Davies, Cough-lan, Williams.

MBDDLESBROUGH (from): Schwarzer, Beresford, Stockdale, Kinder, Cooper, Pal-lister, Gordon, Harrison, Maddison, Summerbell, Gascolgne, Townsend, Deane, Ricard, Moore, O'Neill, Cummins.



Charlton v Chelsea

Last season: No fixture



GUSTAVO POYET could be a surprise inclusion on the Chelsea substitutes' bench for today's visit to The Valley. The Blues are hoping that the Uruguayan midfielder can be available for the Cup-Winners' Cup Semi-final, first leg against Real Mallorca at Stamford Bridge on Thursday after three months out injured.

Chelsea will be looking to their in-form forward, Tore Andre Flo, to maintain their push for Champions' League qualification. Flo has scored three goals in his last two games and also became a father for the first time last week. Dan Petrescu has a sore toe, while Celestine Babayaro and Albert Ferrer will have late fitness tests.

Charlton's new striker, Graham Stuart, who joined the club last week from Sheffield Wednesday for £1.1m, will be hoping to get one over one of his former sides. The Addicks' manager, Alan Curbishley, must decide if his Yugoslavian goalkeeper. Sasa Ilic, is in the right frame of mind to play because of the Balkans conflict. John Barnes is out with a groin injury and Keith Jones and David Tuttle are both suspended.

Rost, Barnes, Bowen.

CHELSEA (from): De Goey, Hitchcock, Ferrer, Le Saux, Terry, Leboeuf, Desailly, Duberry, Myers, Lambourde, Babayaro, Wise, Di Matreo, Morris, Goldback, Petrescu, Poyer, Zola, Flo, Valii, Forssell, Newson, Nicholls.

Suspensions: Charliton: K Jones, Turtle.



Derby v Newcastie Last season: 1-0

1997-98

MIKKEL BECK, Derby's new forward, could make his home debut against Newcastle at Pride Park. The former Middlesbrough player is in line to partner Deon Burton up front in place of Kevin Harper. The Rams are missing their captain, Igor Stimac, who could be out for the rest of the season with a cracked bone in his ankle, but Tony Dorigo returns and Stefan Schnoor will play in midfield in the absence of suspended Darryl Powell.

Newcastle have a major injury concern of their own, with the England captain, Alan Shearer, ruled out of their plans because of an ankle injury. The striker will be joined on the sidelines by the German midfielder, Dietmar Hamann, who also has an ankie problem, and the suspended Warren Barton. Duncan Ferguson, however, could be involved at some point today. The Scot is in the squad for the first time since undergoing surgery on a groin injury at the turn of the year. "Duncan is coming with us, so that's good," said Rund Gullit, the Newcastle manager. "We shall see how he recovers from train-

DERRBY COUNTY (from): Hoult, Prior, Carbonari, Laursen, Borbokis, Dorigo, Bohlnen, Schnoor, Baiano, Bedt, Burton, Warschope, Sharridge, Harper, Effott, Chriscie, Poom. NEWICASTLE LUNITED (from): Given, Harper, Doml. Chanver, Dabbase, Girliffin, Hughes, Pearce, Lee, Speed, Solano, Maric, Georgiadis, Brady, Kessbala, Saha, Ferguson. ons: Derby: Powell, Newcastle: Barton



Leeds United v **Nottingham Forest**



VICTORY TODAY for Leeds will equal their chib-record sequence of seven successive wins, but their manager, David O'Leary is deprived of the considerable services of Alfie Haaland and David Batty through suspension, and Stephen McPhail, who is in Nigeria with the Republic of Ireland at the World Under-20 Championships. Their absence could mean a place in the starting line-up for either Bruno Ribeiro or Matthew Jones, while the teenage striker Alan Smith returns after a one-match suspension.

· Forest's hopes of gaining anything from this match will have receded even further, however, with the suspensions of Pierre van Hooijdonk, Mathieu Louis-Jean and Chris Bart-Williams. But their recently signed central defender Richard Gough is ready to return to the starting line-up after a two-match absence with a back injury, and Mark Crossley and Andy Johnson are available after international duty with Wales in midweek. Johnson missed Forest's last game with a dead leg and is almost certain to return to midfield, while Des Lyttle

is in the frame for a start at right-back.

LEEDS UNITED (from): Maryn. Radebe, Wetherall, Korsten, Wijnhard. Hasselbahl, Ribeiro, Bowyer, Hopkin, Granville, Halle, Kewell, Harte, Woodgate, Smith. Kores, Knarvik, Robinson. NOTTINGRUM POREST (from): Crossley, Lyttle, Bonalair, Chettle, Mattsson, Edwards, Goggi, Rogers, Stensass, Johnson, Palmer, Woan, Porfinio, Darcheville, Shipperley, Freedman, Harewood, Beasant.

ons: Leeds: Batty, Hasland, Forest: Van Hooijdonk, Louis-Jean, Bart-

Forest take the Easter prize

IT WILL surely be the only table they will top all season, but Nottingham Forest will be proud to learn that there is one field in which they have the beating of all their Premiership rivals. In terms of Premiership performances over Easter, no other tearn can match the percentage of points Forest have won.

Although Forest have played only five Premiership games over Easter - some of their current rivals have played as many as 10 - they have an exceptionally good record, comprising four wins and one defeat. Indeed, the four wins have been recorded in their last four Easter Premiership matches.

defeat. Indeed, the four wins have been recorded in their last four Easter Premiership matches.

Whether that record survives this weekend is, however, another matter. Ron Atkinson today takes the Premiership's bottom club to high-flying Leeds, while Liverpool visit the City Ground on Monday. Manchester United and Arsenal, who have both won six Premiership games at Easter (out of nine and 10 fixtures respectively), lie second and third in the Easter division, but will no doubt be more concerned with the more traditional table this weekend. United will also take heart from the fact that in four of the

United will also take heart from the fact that in four of the Premlership's six completed seasons the leaders at Easter have gone on to win the championship.

The two exceptional years were 1993, in the Premiership's first season, and 1998. Six years ago Aston Villa led the table going into the Easter programme. United were one point behind, but seven consecutive wins saw Alex Ferguson's team win their first championship for 26 seasons as they finished 10 points clear of Villa. Last season, however, the boot was on the other foot as Arsenal came from behind to overhaul United and win the title.

At the other end of the Premiership table pre-Easter form is not such a clear guide to the final outcome. Last season was the first Premiership campaign to see the bottom three clubs at Easter fill the eventual relegation positions. Two seasons ago Coventry and Southampton filled the bottom two places at Easter but both went on to avoid the drop.

on to avoid the drop.

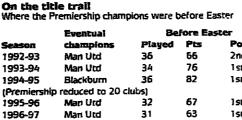
on to avoid the drop.

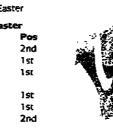
The most dramatic fall was that of Norwich, whose decline had set in well before Easter. At Christmas they had been in seventh place, but a run which produced only one win in 20 matches saw the Canaries relegated to the First Division.

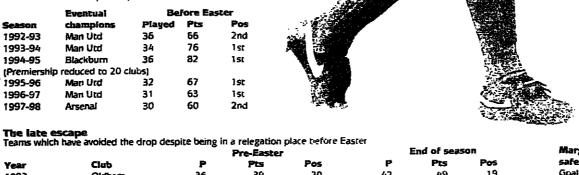
Fans throughout the Premiership will be hoping that this weekend's Easter programme will match that of six years ago, when 70 goals were scored in 20 games in the top flight. Fifteen involved Queen's Park Rangers, who defeated Forest 4-3 on Saturday and Everton 5-3 on Monday. Les Ferdinand scored hat-tricks in both matches.

Easter Premiership table 1993-98 (Current Premiership clubs: includes all matches played between Good Friday and Easter Monday)

		iruay)	_	-	_	Avge pts
	P	w	D	L	Pts	per game
Notam Forest	5	4	8	3	12	2.4
Man Utd	9	6	2	1	20	22
Arsenal .	10	6	2	2	20	2.0
Derby	2	1	1	Ð	4	20
Wimbledon	9	4	3	2	15	1.7
Aston Villa	9	4	2	3	14	1.6
Chelsea	9	4	2	3	14	1.6
Liverpool	10	4	3	3	15	1.5
West Ham	7	2	4	1	10	1.4
Everton	10	4	2	4	14	1.4
Sheff Wed	10	4	2	4	14	7.4
Leeds	8	3	2	3	11	1.4
Southampton	9	4	0	5	12	1.3
Blackburn	10	4	1	5	13	1.3
.Coventry	10	3	2	5	11	1.1
Tottenham	9	2	3	4	9	1.0
Newcastle	8	2	2	4	8	1,0
Middlesbrough	4	1	1	2	4	10
Leicester	3	1	0	2	3	1.0







Year	Club	P	Pts	Pos	P	Pts	Pos	safety
1993	Oldham	36	39	20	42	49	19	Goal diff
1994	Southampton	34	33	20	42	43	18	î point
1995	Everton	35	39	19	42	50	15	5 points
	ted and Premiership then c	ut to 20 civi	bsj					
1996	Coventry	32	27	19	38	38	16	Goal diff
1997	Coventry	32	30	19	38	41	17	1 point
1997	Southampton	31	27	20	38	41	16	1 point
The late d Teams which	rop i have gone down despite b	eing above	the relegation		ister E	ind of seas	on	Final
Year	Club	P	Pts	Pos	P	Pts	Pos	gap
1993	C Palace	35	41	18	42	49	20	Goal diff
1994	Oldham	33	34	18	42	40	21	3 points
1995	Norwich	38	42	16	42	43	20	2 points
·	cut to 20 clubs)		-					
1996	Man City	33	31	16	38	38	18	Goal diff
1997	Sunderland	32	33	16	38	40	18	inioq 1
1997	Middlesbrough	31	32	17	38	39	19	2 points
						Statis	tics Brian Sear	s

BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY FIXTURE GUIDE

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP Chesterfield v Stoke . Lincoln City v Notts County 3.0 unless stated Miliwati v Blackpool Preston v Man City (12.0) Everton v Sheff Wed Reading v Fulham Middlesbrough v Wimble Newcasde v Tottenham (7.45).

Nottm Forest v Liverpool NATIONWIDE LEAGUE rmineham v Watford ... Chester v Barnet ... Bolton v Stockport Bury v Bradford Crystal Palace v Sunderland

Grimsby v Norwich (12.15) Huddersfield v Swindon..... ipswich v QPR... Port Vale v Barnslet Portsmouth v Bristol City Tranmere v Oxford Utd SECOND DIVISION

Burnley v Colchester .

Wigan v Oldham Wycombe v Gillingham THIRD DIVISION Brentford v Plymouth Cardiff v Hull...... Exeter v Leyton Orient Halifax v Rochdale (1.0)

Peterborough v Darlington Rotherham v Swansea Scarborough v Carlisle.... Southend v Scunthorpe (7.45) Torquay v Mansfield... NATIONWIDE CONFERENCE Cheltenham v Kidderminster . Doncaster v Hednesford Famborough v Yeovil

Hereford v Forest Green

Kettering v Stevenage

Kingstonian v Dover . . Northwich v Barrow Southport v Morecambe Telford v. Leek Town . Welling v Hayes Woking v. Rushden & Diamonds

SCOTTISH LEAGUE THIRD DIVISION Dumbarton v Cowdenbeath RYMAN LEAGUE Premier Division:

Aldershot This Basingstoke, Billerway This Heydridge: Bishop's Stortford's Boreham Wood (at Hitchin Town Fig.). Chesham v Avlesbury: Gravesend v Bromley, Hampton v Walton & Hersham. Purfleet v Dagenham & Red-bridge. Slough v Dulwich; Sr Albans v Finneld, Sutton Utd v Carshalton UNIBOND LEAGUE Premier Division: Bamber Bridge v Accompton Stanley (7-30): Chorley v Lancaster

Colwyn Bay v Altrincham, Emley v

Guiseley, Frickley v Spennymoor, Gateshead v Blyth Spartans, Hyde Utd.

v Whirby Tosyn, Leigh PMI v Marine

Runcorn v Winsford Utd: Worksop v DR MARTENS LEAGUE Premier Di-

vision: Bath City v Dorchester; Broms-grove v Halesowen (7.45); Burton Albion v likesron In (7.30); Cambridge City v Crawley Town, Gloucester City v Wordester City (7 30), Grantham v Boston Utd. Hastings v Salisbury: King's Lynn v Rothwell Town; Nunearon v Gres ley Rovers (7 45): Tamworth v Atherscore (7.30): Weymouth v Merthyr SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE Premier Division: Ballymena v Omagh town. Coleraine v Newry.

LEAGUE OF WALES: Alan Lido v Carmairinen Town (2.30). Caernarfon Town v Bangor Oty (2.30): Caersws v Neverown (2 30), Connah's Quay v Holywell (2 30), Haverfordwest v Aberystwyth (2:30), Rhayader Town v TN S (2.30); Rhyl v Conwy (2.30) FIFA WORLD YOUTH CHAMPI-ONSHIP Group E: England U-20 v USA 11-70 (6 0) (at Kono Nigeria).



Liverpool v Everton



LIVERPOOL, WHO have played just one match in five weeks. have some of their injured stars returning for the 160th Merseyside derby at Amfield today. Their captain, Paul Ince, has played in two recent reserve games and should be fit to return following a leg strain. Robbie Fowler, Michael Owen, Vegard Heggem and Dominic Matteo have all recovered from injuries. However, Jamie Carragher still has one match of his three-game suspension to serve and will not be able to return until Monday's game at Nottingham Forest. His only match in a sevenweek spell has been for England Under-21s. The Reds' manager, Gérard Houllier must decide whether to recall Steve McManaman for what would be his last taste of a derby match before moving to Real Madrid in the summer.

Everton look likely to be without Ibrahima Bakayoko as well as their Scottish international Don Hutchison. Bakayoko is described by the Toffees' manager, Walter Smith, as being "almost certainly out" with a hamstring strain. Hutchison is suspended today, so Francis Jeffers could be one of six Blues players - along with Marco Materazzi, David Weir, Olivier Dacourt, Scot Gemmill and Kevin Campbell - to make their derby debut. LIVERPOOL (from): James. Heggem. Staunton. Song. Matteo. Babb. Bjornebye McManaman. Ince. Redknapp, Berger. Owen. Riedle. Fowler. Friedel. Thompson

xisen. **s: Uverpool: C**arragher, **Exerton:** Hutchison.



Referee: D Elleray (Harrow-on-the-Hill)

Sheff Wed v Coventry Last season: 0-0



COVENTRY'S TEENAGE goalkeeper, Chris Kirkland, may find himself thrown into the heat of a Premiership relegation battle in his side's visit to Hillsborough today. The 17-year-old youth team player has been called in as back-up to Swedish international Magnus Hedman for the Sky Blues' vital Easter programme. He gets his chance because City's veteran goalkeeper, Steve Ogrizovic, is under specialist treatment for a neck injury.

Coventry's manager, Gordon Strachan, has other problems. He said: "Roland Nilsson is recovering from fractured ribs; David Burrows is suspended and we have to see whether Paul Williams has recovered from his sciatica." Striker John Aloisi is also suspended but Noel Whelan stands by to replace him.

England Under 21 international striker Richard Cresswell may make his Sheffield Wednesday debut as their manager, Danny Wilson, looks to halt his side's slide down the League. Wilson faces a selection dilemma at left-back as Andy Hinchcliffe is suspended, while the Yugoslav Dejan Stefanovic may not play due to the crisis in his homeland. Lee Briscoe could deputise. SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (from): Smicek, Atherton, Jonk, Newsome, Walker, Car-bone, Sanetti, Cobian, Humphreys, Birscoe, Stefanovic, Emerson, Rudi, Alexandersson, Sonner, Scott, Cresswell, Pressman.

COVENTRY CITY (from): Hedman, Edworthy, Shaw, Konjic, Williams, Telfer, McAllister, Boateng, Froggatt, Huckerby, Whelan, Soltwedt, Clement, Kirkland, Gioacchioi, Delorge, Breen. Wednesday: Hinchcliffe, Coventry: Burrows, Aloisi,

Referee: k Burge (Tonypandy).



Tottenham v Leicester



TOTTENHAM'S Worthington Cup final goalscorer, Allan Nielsen, could keep his place when their beaten opponents. Leicester, visit White Hart Lane today Nielsen, who scored Spurs' dramatic stoppage-time winner at Wembley, only played on that day because Tim Sherwood was cup-tied.

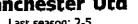
This time Sherwood must serve a one-match ban, having collected five yellow cards, and will be missing along with his fellow midfielder, Darren Anderton, who is also suspended. Anderton's place is likely to go to either Ruel Fox or Andy Sinton, although the transfer-listed Jose Dominguez could be given

a surprise start. The Leicester City striker Emile Heskey will return to lead his side's search for compensation by means of a league victory after undergoing intensive treatment on a back injury. The 21-year-old pulled out of England's Under-21 squad for their match against Poland last week but is fit enough to play. Martin O'Neill's only injury worry is Matt Elliott, who suffered a back injury during Scotland's defeat to the Czech Republic in midweek. Robbie Savage, who had an eventful Worthington Cup final, will also start.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (from): Walker; Carr, Nilsen, Campbell, Young, Taricco, Edinburgh, Nielsen, Sinton, Fox, Freund, Ginola, Ferdinand, Iwersen, Armstrong, Dominguez, Baardsen.

LEICESTER CITY (from): Keller, Arphexad, Guppy, Uliathorne, Elitott, Sinclar, Walsh, Taggart, Lennon, Izzer, Savage, Impey, Gunnlaugsson, Cottee, Heskey, Marshall, Wilson, Zagorakis, Kaamark, Fenton. sions: Tottenham: Sherwood. Anderton. Referee: N Barry (Scunthorpe).

Wimbledon v Manchester Utd





JAAP STAM misses the game after suffering a training ground ankle injury during the Netherlands' get-together for the midweek friendly against Argentina

The good news for the Dutchman and his manager, Alex Feruson, is that he should be fit to face Juventus at Old Trafford Wednesday's European Cup semi-final first leg.

Ronny Johnsen and Wes Brown are on standby to partner Henning Berg in the centre of defence in Stam's absence, while Ryan Giggs is close to a comeback after three weeks out with a hamstring problem. Jesper Blomqvist is fit again after a foot injury which ruled him out against Everton two weeks ago, and will come in if Ryan Giggs fails to make it.

Wimbledon are awaiting a verdict on the fitness of defender Kenny Cunningham, who has a calf strain, but winger Gareth Ainsworth is back in the squad for the first time in four months

ALLET HIJUTY.

WINDELEDON (from): Sullivan, Currungham, Kimble, Thatcher, Perry, Blackwell, Roberts,
Ardley, Earle, C. Hughes, Euell, Kennedy, Fear, Ainsworth, Gayle, Ekoku, Leaburn, Hartson, M. Hughes, Heald.

MANCHESTER UNITED (from): Schmeichel, G. Neville, Berg, Johnsen, Brown, Irwin,
Beckham, Reane, Scholes, Cole, Yorke, Solskjaer, Blomqvist, P. Neville, Burt, Sheringham, Greening, Curtis, Van der Gouvi
Referee: G. Burber











BALL THE BLUEBLOOD P28 • WEEDON IS WIZARD OF WASPS P20

Davis Cup: Courier takes advantage of Briton's faulty serve to give United States team the perfect start

Henman loses battle of wills

BY JOHN ROBERTS in Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM ACQUIRED a marathon on a tennis court at the National Indoor Arena yesterday when Jim Courier defeated Tim Henman 7-6, 2-6. 7-6, 6-7, 7-5, after four hours and 12 minutes, to given the United States a winning start in the Davis Cup World Group first round tie against Britain.

Try though Henman did to respond to the roar of the crowd, Courier would not be denied. There was pride in every winning shot he made in a victory which achieved more than words could to mock his compatriots, Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi, for their lack of interest in the 100th anniversary of tennis's premier men's team competition.

The 28-year-old Courier's response to a call to arms was magnificent, and he ended the long duel with Henman, the British No 1, with a backhand service return to break his opponent to love. Both players had given all they had, and only the second set, won by Henman, could be described as straight-

The first set tie-break ran away from Henman after he hit his second double fault of the match for 1-3. The players had been on court for 48 minutes. and Courier was ready to take his opportunity. The American forced another mini break, returning a second serve, and he secured the set in style, 2-7, with a forehand lob after Henman had again missed with a first serve.

Although there were no service breaks en route to the first set shoot-out, Henman did well to escape in the opening game, in which his erratic first serve gave Courier four break points. Having double faulted on Henman served and volleyed his way out of trouble on the first break-point, and erased the second with an ace. Courier missed a forehand on the third opportunity, and hit a backhand second service return long on the fourth.

Henman steadied his serve to the extent that he did not lose a point on it until reaching 30-0 at 4-4. Courier was unimpressed, having given little

Tim Henman (far court) is caught flat-footed by Jim Courier during the United States player's five-set first singles Davis Cup rubber at the NIA, Birmingham, yesterday

David Ashdown

away on his own serves, hitting them deep and following them to the net whenever it seemed Henman created a couple of delightful drop volleys to take a 6-5 lead, but took only one point off Courier's serve before the umpire called the tie-

The crowd had been subdued during the early part of the match, so quiet in the opening games that the air-conditioning made the most noise, an eerie whistling wind sound which created an impression that 10,000 inhabitants in the National

haunted house.

Henman's endeavours transrmed the atmosphere by breaking for 3-2 in the second final point prompting roars of feet. Courier's serve began to waver, and he hit his first double-faults of the match in the seventh game, the third on break point. Henman held to love to level the match, taking the set in 30 minutes.

Courier double-faulted again to present Henman with an

the next point landed in the net. Service errors were beginning set, his service return on the to become a feature of the contest, Henman double-faulting delight and much stamping of when broken for 2-5 - Courier responding in kind to lose the initiative when serving at 5-3. The American lost his composure over the line call on his second serve, marching to the net to protest, a rebel on a court of Confederate grey-blue. Tom Gullikson, the United States' captain, made a moderate com-

call Henman continued to play thought that was in as well?" the first of four match points. ning the shoot-out, 12-10. his way back into the set, and Courier's relationships with the crowd continued to deteriorate. The American's elaborate gesture to show where he ahead, 3-2. He then broke Henbelieved a Henman shot had landed beyond the baseline in the 10th game irritated the spectators, who were annoyed further after he congratulated a line judge for a correct call on the way to the second tie-break.

man for 5-2 and won the shoot-

out. 7-3, for a two set to one lead. Henman recovered a break of serve to level at 4-4 on the way to the fourth-set tie-break. which was to generate the most "Give me a break down Double faults played a part, court on his fourth. The Amer-

after Courier clearly missed his

first serve on the next point.

Courier turned and pointed at

The American missed with the a wild backhand service return. the fifth sets of Davis Cup Henman created a set point matches, and this one did not the heckler after nudging with an ace only to net a forehand for 7-7.

Henman saved the second match point with another ace. but double-faulted for 8-9. A backhand to the baseline saved the third match point, and Courier hit another wild backdramatic action of the match. hand return wide across the

Indoor Arena were trapped in a opportunity to break in the plaint to the French umpire. here," Courier shouted at 2-2 in Henman hitting two for 4-5. He ican compounded that by missthird game of the third set, but Bruno Rebeuh, who made plain the shoot-out. A spectator re-recovered for 5-5, only to hit a ing a forehand on Henman's Henman's forehand return on his agreement with the judge's sponded with: "I suppose you backhand long to give Courier second set point, the Briton win-

There are no tie-breaks in necessitate one, even though games went according to serve until it came Henman's turn to toss the ball and deliver in the 12th game. This time, when Courier had his fifth matchpoint, he hit the sweetest backhand cross-court return you could wish to see.

Other results, page 25

IN MONDAY'S 16-PAGE SPORTS SECTION



Richard Williams (left) reports from Italy as Juventus make final preparations for next week's European Cup semi-final against Manchester United

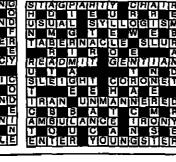
Chris Hewett on rugby union's Tetley's Bitter Cup semi-finals

Comprehensive guide to 15 Easter Monday racecards and the Irish Grand National



Friday's solution

Last Saturday's solution



ACROSS

Shortage of runs in the Two thousand verses in it may be improper (8) 10 Crazy dance performed by prison officers? (9) 11 Fortune-telling's sharp

about love (5) 12 Scrap a piece of Indian music (4) 13 Monstrous flapper - or femme fatale! (42.4)
15 Prevent one leaving sub-

dued meal (7) 16 Bright, within limits of clarity? The opposite (6) 19 Crucial apartment - it's all push-buttons! (3-3) 21 It's a requirement when

returning for fruit (7)
23 Indication of possession perhaps too abused (10)
25 I was in charge of revolutionary shop (4)
27 Nething all possessions had Nothing pleasant can be kept in reserve (2,3)
Agreed phrase describing singular mental state? (2,3,4)

29 Shakespearean antihero almost lying to men, shirking leadership (8) 30 Lad receiving a lot of charity? There's a bit of a catch (6)

DOWN

Give an illustration: "See bird flying round front of cage" (8) Groan when running in hectic race, it's pre-

sumed (9) Place is a drag, needing a bit of novelty (4)

Airy doctor accepting love? Not half (7)
No more varieties available? That's not showing top form (3,2.5) No time for period of French history? That's a mistake (5)

Hetty's made out to be a nymph (6) Cruel man, notice, is impaling holy man (6)

14 No bed to be found for such a sufferer? (10)

17 Erudite working with shell of uranium and

heavy hydrogen (9) 18 Two men here (Essex men, presumably) (8) Get less sleep (4,3) Train dolphins? (6) 22 A year of getting stuck into pianoforte - and this is the result! (3-3) 24 College gold that is taken by lecturer (5) 26 Lover asks to hug girl (4)

The first five correct solutions to this week's puzzle opened next Thursday receive hardbacked copies of the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations. Answers and winners' names will be published next Saturday. Send solutions to Saturday Crossword, P.O. Box 4018, The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5BL. Please use the box number and postcode and give your own postcode. Last week's winners: A Vass, St Helens; P Jones, Caldicot; E Brundritt, SE11; A Town, Barnoldswick; J Webster, Blackford.

Zidane's injury adds to worries for Juventus

JUST AS Manchester United managed to avoid the danger of Ronaldo in the first leg of their European Cup quarter-final against Internazionale, so they may be spared the threat of Zinedine Zidane, the Brazilian's successor to the title of the world's greatest footballer, in the first of their two semi-final meetings with Juventus at Old Trafford on Wednesday.

The Frenchman, who scored two of his country's goals in the World Cup final last July, was injured in the second leg of his club's quarter-final against Olympiakos of Athens two and a half weeks ago and has not played since. He missed France's Euro 2000 qualifying games against the Ukraine last Saturday and Armenia on Wednesday, to the team's obvi-

ous detriment. Yesterday he made an appearance at Turin's Stadio Communale, the old stadium which Juventus now use as a training ground, but was unable to take part in exercises with the rest of the squad. With his right leg heavily bandaged from mid-thigh to mid-calf, he jogged along the touchline and occasionally attempted a gentle

jinking exercise. Zidane will not travel with the rest of the team to Empoli for today's match against Serie A's are rated by Ancelotti at no bottom club, but Juventus's

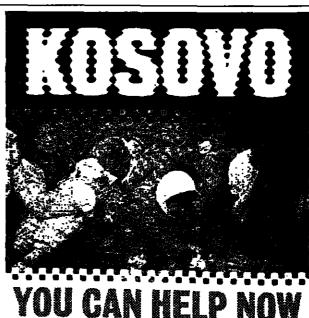
BY RICHARD WILLIAMS in Turin

new coach, Carlo Ancelotti, refused to rule out the possibility of an appearance in Manchester. "If I had to make a decision today on the side for Wednesday's match, I couldn't pick him," he said yesterday. "But between now and Wednesday, anything can happen. So we must be hopeful. At the moment I'd

say there's an even chance." Juventus, the Italian champions, are suffering from uncertain league form and a rash of absences as they prepare to challenge for a place in the European Cup final for the fourth consecutive year.

Alessandro Del Piero, their star forward, has been out of action since collecting a knee injury in October and is unlikely to return before the end of the season. Thierry Henry, purchased from Monaco before Christmas and praised for his contribution to two good wins by the France Under-21 side in the past few days, is ineligible. Lastly, Paolo Montero, the small but powerful Uruguayan central defender, has a leg injury and his chances of playing at Old Trafford, like Zidane's. better than 50-50.

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A human catastrophy is unfolding in the Balkans. Thousands of Kosovan Albanians have fied their homes for other countries in one of Europe's worst humanitarian crisis since the Second World War. Albania is worst affected with refugees needing shelter, food and clothing. Christian Aid can help. We have been working in the Balkans since the break-up of Yugoslavia and will 20 00 working there. Please disp what you

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DEPENDENT

rfect start

INVESTING, PAGE 5



IN THE REALM OF THE SENSES: ALFA'S NEW GTV

MOTORING, PAGE 6



A LONDON HOME FOR LESS THAN £50,000

PROPERTY, PAGE 7



A stake in the future

And now - what the financial industry really thinks about stakeholder pensions. By Paul Slade

t was bound to happen. First the praise, then the brickbats: barely three months since the Government published its proposals for a new "stakeholder" pension scheme - to, at the time, near-universal approval - and already the plans have come under fire. Critics are claiming that stakeholder pensions would be a "hugely vasteful" regime with "massive un-

cessary costs" for savers. Consumer groups and pension providers see parallels with the pensions mis-selling scandal of the late Eighties. Then, thousands of workers were wrongly told to opt out of perfectly good occupational schemes for far inferior alternatives.

An independent consumer panel at the Financial Services Authority, the City's leading watchdog, warns: "It is important that employees are not encouraged away from existing occu-pational schemes by employers playing on the simplicity of (stakeholder) schemes and the 'halo' effect of Government sponsorship."

According to the Government. stakeholder pensions will be targeted wainly at the 11 million UK workers no earn between £9,000 and £20,000 a year, only about half of whom already have an occupational pension. The proposals aim to provide a "secure, flexible and value-for-money" savings option, which the Government wants

However, Andrew Black, pensions marketing manager at Standard Life, a leading pension provider, says he does not want to see people automatically switched out of company schemes into stakeholder ones: "A lot of the problem in the late 1980s was generated by the fact that too many people opted out, and we want to avoid that happening again."

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Axa Sun Life, another insurer, adds: "The consultative document could be interpreted as encouraging switching of existing pension arrangements to stakeholder [schemes]. We believe it would be hugely wasteful if this were the outcome. In many respects, existing schemes are likely to offer better value than stakeholder."

Axa bases its worries on an aside in the Government's consultation paper saying that the pension indistry will be expected to "facilitate transfer into

takeholder pension schemes". Tony Tollerton, Axa's senior tech-



Pensioners may not be dancing for joy if they 'mis-buy' stakeholder pensions

ple than the Government intends will respond to this encouragement by opting out of occupational schemes with out realising they could lose out.

The FSA consumer panel is worried ferent types of pensions available, that many employers would use the not just stakeholder schemes. switch from occupational schemes to stakeholder pensions as a way of cutting their own costs. Employers have to contribute to their workers' occupational schemes, but would not have and better information."

nical manager, fears many more peo- to do so with stakeholder pensions. The FSA panel is calling on the Goverroment to fight the danger of mis-selling through a consumer education campaign which talks about all the dif-

> Barbara Saunders, who chairs the panel, says: "They need to empower consumers to make informed choices, and that requires better education

Axa wants to see yet another category of pension introduced to protect these workers. These would not be stakeholder plans, but would have low enough charges to be certified as "stakeholder-friendly".

Mr Tollerton says: "What would happen in practice is that every single pension at these levels of earnings would be either a full stakeholder, or

stakeholder-friendly" Standard Life agrees there is a danger of people moving wrongly into stakeholders, but its own concern is for those in group personal pensions

rather than occupational schemes. Employers who already offer an occupational scheme to all their employees need not give them access to a stakeholder alternative. But no decision has yet been made on an equivalent exclusion for group personal pension schemes.

Standard Life believes this omission "could result in massive unneccessary costs", as people transfer out of group schemes for no good reason.
As a mutual, Standard Life is owned

by its policyholders, who Andrew Black says would have to bear these extra costs. At Axa, Mr Tollerton says the costs of the waste he refers to would also ultimately fall on savers.

Standard Life adds: "Some employees will receive better benefits from group personal pensions than from some occupational pension schemes. It would clearly be illogical not to provide an exemption for such good schemes."

"Good" group personal pensions, it adds, should be defined as those with low enough charges to meet the stakeholder standards. But this test would come only "after a reasonable transition period, such as three to five years."

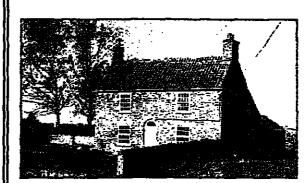
This issue of advice also concerns many pension experts, who say the lack of help in buying a pension under the risks involved. Axa believes a charge of no more than 1.5 per cent would be enough to build in the cost of advice to buyers.

But Ms Saunders says most people in the target stakeholder group cannot afford to pay for advice. Instead, she wants to see very basic help made available free through Citizens' Advice Bureaux. "People who just want some help in deciding what sort of route might be appropriate could then go to an informed source to help them through the maze," she says.

Andrew Black, at Standard Life, says: "The concern now is not so much mis-selling as mis-buying: people walking into something without taking advice, and buying something that really doesn't suit them.'

Mr Tollerton adds: "The risk of people taking a stakeholder pension without advice - and not realising they've done anything wrong till they retire X years later - is very much there."

BARGAINS OF THE WEEK



Property of the week

Prepare to strip in earnest if you take on Scrimshaws, a Georgian-fronted Fenland cottage five miles from King's Lynn. The wallpaper is probably seven or eight layers deep, but that would be the least of the renovations required. Untouched for years, the two-bedroom cottage has no central heating and a downstairs bathroom, so probably needs extending on two floors at the back to make into a decent three-bedroom house with an upstairs bathroom; and it would certainly need a new kitchen. But its half-acre, triangular-shaped plot provides scope for imaginative renovation.

The village, once on the trunk road to Peterborough, is now by-passed, cutting down traffic considerably. With its walled garden and farmland views, the cottage would make an attractive family or holiday home, say agents Brown & Co (01945 464747), who are giving a guide price of £60,000. More Property, pages 7 & 8



Car of the week

It's Beetlemania of course. Why else would buyers be prepared to pay around £18,000 for an unofficial import of the latest Volkswagen Beetle? In case you have missed all the hype, the Beetle is really a currentgeneration VW Golf, but with a much more characterful body on top. It's therefore much less practical.

Never mind, it looks so cute. Official imports will start later this year - left-hand-drive only and will also cost somewhere in the region of £18,000.

However, the cheapest I have seen are offered at the by EuroAuto (01628 473311): T-registered, with air conditioning, alloy wheels, a choice of colours and a dashboard-mounted flower vase (honest). All this for JAMES RUPPERT More Motoring, page 6



Deal of the week

Mobile phone customers who sign up to Cellnet will be offered a Two For Free deal: free evening and weekend calls to two UK fixed-line numbers of their choice, until 31 December 1999.

One million current Cellnet First and Cellnet core digital customers who sign up before the end of June will also benefit. The catch is that you have to sign up for a minimum of one year, with penalties of between £100 and £200 for cancelling before then. But if your lover lives far away, this is the mobile phone for you. Call 0990 214000.

SHOPPING AND DESIGN HAVE MOVED TO THE WEEKEND REVIEW

Fancy some nooky? You'll need protection

Forget third party, fire and theft - now willing consumers can insure themselves against bad sex. By Paul Slade

EVER WOKEN up next to an ugly stranger? Bought a bad album? Rumed your clothes in the wash, or had a bad haircut? Fear not, you can now obtain insurance against these and life's many other vicissitudes, including crisis moments such as your learn losing the FA Cup Final.

The cover available includes intring against failure to perform in ed, according to Maxim, a laddish men's magazine. Its May edition concludes that readers would have to pay an annual premium of £20 for this par ticular cover. In return, they could expect a payout of up to £500 if they failed

to rise to the occasion. The policies are sold by insurance Pearson (Grip), an insurer known for

accident and unemployment cover, as well as "frivolous" insurance, includ-

ing protection against virgin births. But when it comes to meeting claims, Grip is far from a soft touch. The firm's underwriting director, Simon Burgess, says: "In all these cases, the devil is in the detail, and the burden of proof would be on you. You d probably have to get a written declaration from your wife that you couldn't

"If there was a pre-existing medcluded, and obviously one would have a '14 pints of lager' exclusion."

The temporary impotence policy agents Goodfellows Rebecca Ingrims is often bought not by the potential claimant himself, but by friends and ask them to analyse it?"

marketing "straight" policies, such as anxious to add some spice to the best man's speech.

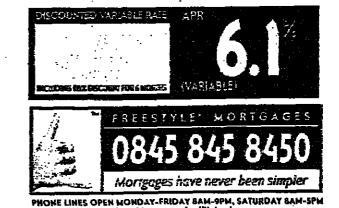
Already on Grip's books with similar policies are US President Bill Clinton - insured by a Republican rival as a publicity stunt - and a porn star named Huw Jardon.

Grip's cover against such perils as getting served a bad pint in the pub would cost £20 and the potential payont would be \$30. A policy against waking up next to an ugly person would cost you £150, and could pay out £200. However, Malcolm Tarling, spokes-

ical condition, then that would be ex- man at the Association of British Insurers, is unimpressed. He says: "Who decides what a bad pint is? What are you going to do - take the pint along to your insurance company

COVER AGAINS	T LIFE'S LITTLE	PROBLEMS
Risk	Premium	Payout
Temporary impotence	£20	Up to £500
Ugly bedmate	£150	£200
Boring party	£20	£50
Bad haircut	£3.000	£10.000
Bad pint	£20	£30
Buying poor album	Σ80	£200
Can't get a cab	£500	£600
Clothes ruined in wash	£5	£100
Team loses Cup Final	£400	£2,000
		Source: Maxim

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patable and to our mortgage terms and conditions, which are available on request YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT. Written quotations are available on request. Typical at 4.55% Discounted Variable Rate for 6 shouths then 6.05% Standard Variable Rate, o monthly payments of 6.335, 20 gms. then 294 monthly payments or 6.367, 57 gross. Total amount payable £116,257, including standard valuation fee of £125 and solutions fee of £175. Valent to 90 days' gross interest at the Standard Variable Rate on the initial sum advanced will apply to redemption within the first 12 months. Payment holidays will be allowed after the first o monthly payments have been made and are subject to ability to pay and interest at the Standard valuation fee will be refunded on completion of the mortgage. Telephone calls will be monitored and recorded to help us improve customer service. Standard Life Bank Limited Standard Life House 30 Lothian Road Edinburgh EH1 2DH, is an ent morrgage of £60,000, taken over 25 years, charged at £.55% Disc

WHENEVER I think I am going soft on the financial industry, a letter or phone call from a reader will jolt me back into my usual combative self. Here is one example from a reader we'll

call Mr Smith. Earlier this month he received his buildings insurance premium reminder from Halifax General Insurance Services.

The Halifax deal is similar to many on offer from mortgage lenders: you can send a cheque, or if you don't want to, they'll pay the premium anyway and add the sum to your mortgage total. For many readers, this is seen as a bonus if they can't afford the premiums in any one year.

The amount being asked of Mr Smith, however, was £288.40. It didn't look right. In past years he had been charged £175.80, £184.30 and £189.32, so naturally Mr Smith called the bank, convinced they had made an error. However, he was assured that the new figure was correct, due to a revised method of assessing premiums by postcode

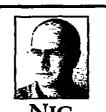
It took one call to his local insurance broker to obtain a quote that was more than 190 less than the Halifax premium. The broker said he had no evidence of premiums in Mr Smith's

locality rising dramatically. Mr Smith has written to Halifax General Insurance Services to complain about the increase. "The silence," he says, "is deafening".

As he points out, what annoys Mr Smith about this is that there must be many people less vigilant than himself who would not check a new premium and would unthinkingly allow the Halifax to pay it and so add it to their mortgage. They would act like this

on the rather quaint - and. so it would appear, misguided - understanding that their mortgage lender has their best interests at heart. In fact it is obvious that the Halifax is more interested in looking after its own interests.

There are several lessons to be learned from Mr Smith's experience, particularly for those of us who will be out househunting this Easter.



CICUTTI

Many insurers raise prices surreptitiously, assuming that policyholders won't notice

The first is always get more than one quote from a direct insurer and an insurance broker. Never, unless it is a condition of a loan, automatically take out your lender's cover.
Despite his creditable £90

annual saving, I have no doubt at all that a few more calls by Mr Smith to other brokers and insurers would have cut his annual premiums even further.

Second, always to check the amount you are being asked to pay for your insurance oremiums. Leaving aside Halifax's "revised method of assessing premiums by postcodes", many insurers will surreptitiously (and not so surreptitiously) raise prices on the assumption that their policyholders won't notice.

Third, if you do stick with a lender's household or contents policy, never allow it to add the premiums to the amount you owe on the mortgage. This is a recipe for disaster, not only because you are lulled into a false sense of security, as Mr Smith briefly was, but because the interest repayable on successive premiums added to the original loan soon dwarfs the original amount owed.

Think about it: £200 added to a policy in year one becomes at least £400-£500 after 25 years, based on average interest rates over

the past decade or so. For those of you who will be out house-hunting this Easter, I hope you find a bargain. You can help pay for it by keeping an eye on your insurance costs - as Mr Smith's experience shows.

Married with a few bob

FINANCIAL MAKEOVER

NAME: TJEERD LEKKERKER AND EMMA FOUGMAN AGE: 28 AND 26 OCCUPATION: MANAGER, COMMERCIAL SHIPPING COMPANY, AND PASTRY CHEF

jeerd and Emma married a few months ago. They both work and live in rented accommodation in south London. Ideally they would like to buy their own home, but also plan to start a family in a few years time. They have £20,000 in a savings account and no outstanding debts. Apart from their savings they have no other investments, pensions, or life assurance. From their joint income they pay £550 per month in rent and they estimate that they can save £500 per month.

The adviser: Fiona Price, managing director of independent financial and tax advisers Fiona Price & Partners, 33 Great Queen Street, London WC2B 5AA. (0171 430 0366).

The advice: Tjeerd and Emma have a number of financial planning issues that need to be addressed. First, they plan to buy a house in the near future, so money is going to be tight for the next couple of years. Buying a house is always more expensive than we anticipate, luckily they have quite significant savings, part of which they can use as a deposit. They may also want to carry out some home improvements so they should keep their money on deposit

I would advise them to try not to use all of their savings for house purchase and hold some back as a cash reserve. A general rule of thumb is an amount equivalent to at least three months normal expenditure, which in Tjeerd and Emma's case is roughly £6,000. The new individual savings accounts (ISAs) available from 6 April 1999 are the best home for this.

They should invest £3,000 each in a mini cash ISA, which will give them the benefit of instant access to their cash and tax-free interest. If they have any spare money next year they should look at a mini equity ISA as a home for medium-term savings.

As far as mortgages are concerned, I would advise them to go for a repayment mortgage on a threeyear fixed rate with no redemption tie in after the fixed rate period. This will help them to budget and also means they will not be locked into unfavourable rates in three years time if interest rates continue to fall. There are three-year fixed rate mortgages, with no tie in, available at rates their regular outgoings down.



Tjeerd Lekkerkerker and his wife Emma Fougman have £20,000 in savings

of about 5 per cent. There are new deals being announced all the time so it pays to shop around. Do watch

out for any compulsory extras. Tjeerd and Emma had also expressed concern about life cover. A mortgage protection policy on both their lives would provide adequate cover for their needs and will keep

As added protection I would in- they start a family they should include critical illness cover, which will pay a lump sum equivalent to the outstanding balance of their mortgage in the event of either of them contracting certain serious illnesses. For an initial sum assured of £100,000 they should expect to pay about £30

rather than a reviewable one). Once

crease their life cover significantly. Another area that needs immediate attention is pension planning. Both of them have never been members of a company scheme nor have they made their own private provision. I would advise them to take out

per month (go for a guaranteed rate personal pensions immediately. However, as they are going to have to appear in the newspaper

fairly significant outlays over the next few years, with the purchase of a new house and the prospect of starting a family, I suggest that they limit their contributions to about £100 per month each initially. This amount will help to discipline them into making pension contributions but will not overstretch them.

Tjeerd should make sure that every time he receives a pay rise he should also increase his pension. As Emma plans to work part-time once they have children she should be able to maintain a premium of £100 per month even on a reduced income. I would go for level-costed plans, where the charges are spread over the term of the contract rather than taken "up front", and perhaps transfer to the new stakeholder pensions when they become available in 2001.

Finally they need to consider permanent health insurance (PHI), which will provide them with an income when they become ill. They will be entitled to statutory sick pay, however, at £59.55 per week (from 6 April) it is unlikely to go very far. The aim is to provide adequate cover for minimal cost.

The way to achieve this is by having as long a deferment period as possible (the deferment period is the number of weeks you must be ill before the plan pays any benefit).

The first thing they should do is check out how much sick pay they will receive from their employers. Any personal PHI plans should "kick in" once the company benefit stops. To reduce costs further add in the three months emergency cash reserve to the equation.

The steps I have laid out should allow Tjeerd and Emma to buy a house, provide adequate protection. and start making provision for their retirement, without overburdening them. And they should still have enough at the end of the month to build up more short-term savings to help when they start a family.

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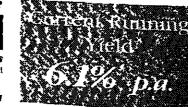
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Loadsamoney (maybe) How to get rich, part three: Rachel Fixsen looks at high-risk, split capital investment trusts

apital growth is the main attraction of shares – dividends are really just a sideshow. Take the shares of pharmaceuticals giant Glaxo Wellcome. In the last five years, dividends alone gave investors a return of just over 25 per cent, but in the same period the company's share price grew by over 200 per cent.

So imagine the lure of a type of share which returned not only its own capi-tal growth, but that of other shares too. These shares exist. They are called capital shares and are one of the various classes of share available in a split capital investment trust.

An investment trust is a company which exists purely to invest in the shares of other companies. It is a type of collective investment: investors buy shares in the investment trust as a way of spreading their risk across a variety of equities.

Split capital investment trusts are a breed of investment trust which have a limited life. They invest in a similar way to any other investment trust, but instead of issuing ordinary shares which pay a dividend and fluctuate in value according to the performance of the trust, splits offer a variety of types of share.

Capital and income shares are the most basic types. Income shares benefit from the dividends of all the shares in the trust, while capital shares assume all the capital growth.

Other types of share include zero dividend preference shares. These pay no dividend but are the safest because they offer a fixed rate of return and have first call on the assets of the trust when it is wound up. Stepped preference shares pay dividends which rise at a predetermined rate each year, making them suitable for people looking for a guaranteed level of income.

Capital shares can offer huge returns - but at a price. "They are suitable for investors who want to take a high risk for a high reward," says Annabel Brodie-Smith of the Association of Investment Trust Companies. But investors must understand those risks first, she warns.

The reason capital shares are so risky, is that when the investment trust tween £5,000 and £6,000 in capital is wound up, capital shares are last in shares in 1992. Over the past six and line for a payout. If the trust's in- a half years, he has cashed in about vestments have performed really £20,000 of growth from the original inbadly, there might be little left in the vestment, and the portfolio is currently paying holders of income shares and zeros. They could get less than their original capital back.



High-risk trusts and plastering have one thing in common: the rewards

have to decide which investment sector you want, whether it is larger blue chip companies, smaller companies or a general UK portfolio, for example.

Find out how long the trust has yet

'Capital shares are for those who want to take a high risk for a high reward'

to run. A trust with a reasonable life left has better chances of weathering downturns in the stockmarket, says an Seager of Bristol-based independent financial advisers Whiteinvestment trust? As with any other church Securities. "Any short-term

Look at the fulcrum rate for the capital shares. This is the rate at which the trust's portfolio must grow for capital shares to be repaid in full. For many trusts this rate is zero or lower, and the lower it is, the safer the capital shares are.

Ken Lennox

Mr Seager says he would look for capital shares which are calculated to grow between 20 and 25 per cent assuming the underlying portfolio grew at 10 per cent a year.

Stockbrokers can provide this information on capital shares of indi-

vidual trusts. He recommends capital shares of the Jupiter Split Capital Investment Trust. It has five and a half years still to run, and in that time capital shares currently priced at 162 pence should type of collective investment, you problems would be ironed out." he says. If annual growth is just five per cent. by calling 0845 271 1003.

the capital shares would still mature at 357 pence.

Lloyds Smaller Companies split capital investment trust has a fulchrum rate of -8.4 per cent a year, providing a reasonable amount of security for capital invested. "I feel smaller companies will come back they are a good place to be," says Mr Seager.

You could simplify things by investing in capital shares through another collective investment - a unit trust, Exeter Fund Managers runs the Exeter Capital Growth Fund, which invests exclusively in the capital

shares of splits. "We believe a managed portfolio is a lower-risk way in to this sector," says Philip Thitchener of Exeter Fund Managers. Capital shares can be extremely complicated for the lay investor, and there are a number of pitfalls, he says.

"We analyse, research and monitor, and we do that all day long." he adds. "So compared with someone who looks at the sector occasionally, we are in a much better position to take advantage of opportunities as

Kean Seager says funds such as Exeter's can be a good idea if you only have £1,000 to invest in capital shares. But he also points out that unit trusts have to hold a broad spread of shares, and as the variety of capital shares on offer is limited, this could force Exeter's fund to hold some less attractive capital shares.

However, split capital investment trusts are on the increase, with a number of new launches recently, says Annabel Brodie-Smith. As interest rates slide, the demand for investments which maximise income has increased, and income shares and zeros fit the bill. "The whole sector is in vogue," she says.

AITC - for a factsheet on split capital investment trusts: 0171-431 5222; Whitechurch Securities: 0117-944 2266; Bates Investment Services: 0113-295 5955: Exeter Fund Managers: 0800 807807

The Independent' is offering a free Guide to High Risk/High Reward Investment', which outlines the commonest ways in which savers can obtain higher-than-average returns on their funds -including split capital investment trusts - by taking a more aggressive approach with their rise to 631 pence, assuming the trust's money. The guide, sponsored by investments grow at 10 per cent a year. Whitechurch Securities, is available

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INVESTING YOUR money means taking a long hard look at the company offering the product. This applies even to relatively safe funds, such as withprofits bonds.

In this case, a company's financial strength is critical for several reasons. It determines whether it will be able to continue delivering high annual and terminal bonuses, what its investment strategy should be, even whether it should sell its shares to meet its obligations to policyholders.

All with profits bond providers will invest in a mixture of equities, property, cash, gilts and fixed interest securities. The ratio of that mix is itself determined by a company's strength: if you are weak, then in order to pay out annual bonuses on the bond you must invest more in securities. This affects the performance of your fund which gets less exposure to

Conversely, a strong provider will be able to invest more of its funds in equities, while still meeting any guarantees to policyholders. Returns will be higher. Financial strength also determines what happens in the event of a market melt-down.

So how is financial

higher-return equities.

strength measured? By way of a "free asset ratio", or FAR, which is a calculation of the freely-available assets a company has, compared to its total assets. The higher the FAR, usually a percentage, the better.

A note of warning: a company's FAR may also be higher because over the past year or two it has paid out less annual bonuses.

FARs are calculated by Standard & Poor's, the credit reference agency. which assesses a life insurer's financial strength. S&P will then allocate a rating, ranging from AAA, which denotes superior financial strength, to CCC, meaning "extremely weak".

Whenever you are deciding which with-profits bond to buy, always check what S&P rating it has. The higher the better. NIC CICUTTI

The Independent' has produced a free 24-page Guide to With-Profits Bonds'. Written by Nic Cicutti, our personal finance editor, the guide examines the arguments for and against investing in bonds. It explains the tax implications and where to buy a bond. For your copy of the guide, sponsored by The With-Profits Bond Shop, call 0845 2711007

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I HAVE never been one to be easily seduced by so-called special offers and last chances to buy, but we really have seen the last chance to buy PEPs and Tessas. One small question springs to mind on the subject of PEPs. If someone has a couple of thousand pounds sitting around doing nothing, and not sheltered in a tax-efficient

around to putting it in a PEP before now? Let us be honest, the last minute rush for PEPs is not of those people opening up monthly saving schemes - if it is then the financial service providers who sold them are sailing perilously close to the rocks of mis-selling However, if you do have funds sitting in a bank or building society

haven, why haven't they got

If this weekend's focus on Easter eggs has helped turn your thoughts to nest eggs, you are still in with a chance of organising your last-ever PEP thanks to

account earning taxed interest, it is still not too late to do something.

the latest marketing wheeze from Virgin Direct. On the Virgin Direct website

"Capital shares are generally in-

appropriate for smaller investors,"

says Graham Bates of independent fi-

nancial advisers Bates Investment

Services. "While you could quadruple

your money, you could just as easily

halve it," he says. Any funds invest-

ed in capital shares should be seen as

money you are prepared to lose, the

potential gains may seem worth the

risk. David Learmonth, head teacher

How do you choose a split capital

at a West Yorkshire school invested be-

However, as long as you only invest

gambling money, says Mr Bates.

you can call up an online application form which takes you through the following steps: reading the Key Features document, reading the conditions and then filling out the actual form. Once you have filled the form out on-screen you need to print it out. However, it will not have escaped your notice that you have only until midnight Monday before the current tax year and thus PEPs and Tessas come to

Virgin Direct is not offering the facility of online PEP purchases but has organised the next best thing for the last few days of the tax year. PEP applications may be handed in at one of 10 Virgin Megastores dotted around the UK. Staff will be on hand to check your application forms until 7pm on Monday 5 April at the

music and video stores in



INTERNET INVESTOR ROBIN AMLÔT

London's Oxford Street Birmingham, Brighton, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Kingston, Manchester, Oxford and Southampton.

If you cannot get along to one of these Virgin Megastores with your form, then you may call Speed Couriers - the number is on the Virgin Direct website - and they will collect the form from you free of charge. The courier service is available up until 8pm on

Sunday. Of course, if you really want to cut it fine and get into the record books. Virgin Direct's office in Norwich will be taking hand-delivered applications right up until midnight on April 5.

ONCE IN to the new tax year it will

be back to business as usual - but the meaning of "business as usual" continues to evolve. Analysis by market research group Datamonitor for Reuters Business Insight suggests that almost a third of us are already prepared to use the Internet in dealing with a financial services provider, with one in 10 now willing to buy life insurance. mortgages or endowments online. Datamonitor forecasts 21 per cent of households will have a PC and a modem by next year. rising to 30

Datamonitor's findings are pitched at the service provider rather than the consumer. The report "UK Financial Services on the Internet" highlights the

per cent in 2002.

expectation we now have for the provision of quality financial services online. It warns product providers that they will "compromise their reputation for consumer service" if they do not offer Internet facilities.

What is becoming increasingly clear is that regulation is lagging behind Internet developments. This month HM Treasury issued a consultation document reviewing the legislation covering financial promotion and proposed changes in the Financial Services & Markets Bill. You can view the document on the Treasury website and you can read my comments on it here next time.

Virgin Direct: www.virgindirect.co.uk: Datamonitor: www.datamonitor.com; HM Treasury: www.hmtreasury.gov.uk

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SO, FAREWELL then PEPs. It has been nice knowing you. From next Tuesday you are history. But you have made quite

an impression in the 12 years you have been here. The first PEPs, launched in 1987, allowed only £2,400 to be invested in the stockmarket - and you could not buy unit or investment trusts. The allowance has been that this year you could

increased, with the result have invested £9,000, split between £6,000 in a general PEP and £3,000 in a single company PEP. If you had religiously used up each year's allowance. you would have quite a sizeable investment pile.

It is rumoured that there are a few PEP millionaires around. although I have yet to meet one. Certainly halfmillionaires, if you take husbands and wives together into account, are not rare, given the way the market has advanced over the past decade. No wonder Labour decided to

close the door. Money has certainly been flowing into PEPs as people take advantage of this last opportunity. The marketing hype has been huge. This money has to be invested and, sure enough, shares are close to all-time highs. But then, so is Wall Street. In fact it is surprising that our market has not performed better, given the support.

To some extent we

should not be surprised. While there are new investors attracted into the system through PEPs, much of the money that has been flowing in has simply been reallocated from other investment sources. PEPs were always most attractive to established investors. Firms like ours have been raising money from taxable portfolios to put into PEPs ever since they were introduced. They may have attracted tens of billions of pounds, but a lot was invested already.

The allowances for the ISA are less generous, but investment restrictions are not as great. This means that people putting money into this new vehicle could choose to



BRIAN **TORA**

Do not expect ISAs to have anything like the impact that PEPs have had

invest it all outside the UK. And although you can put all of your ISA into the stockmarket, there is no obligation to do so - with mini-cash and life insurance ISAs available also. So do not expect ISAs to have anything like the impact that PEPs have had.

I am not convinced that PEPs have made that much of a difference to the market anyway, but we could soon be suffering from morning-after effects as we move into the new tax year. It may take a while for the dust to settle. but it would not surprise me if people took a more critical view of their investments once they know they have a full year to mitigate any tax complications that selling in April brings. We have become used to rising stock markets, PEPfuelled or not PEP-fuelled. I have a feeling that we should expect rather more mundane conditions as we near the new millennium.

Incidentally, if you have not yet taken out your final PEP there are a number of providers staying open all over the Easter break, just so they can relieve you of your money. I am told that at least one major investment house is prepared to take PEP applications as late as one minute to midnight on Easter Monday. That shows you how keen they are to make the most of this selling opportunity.

Brian Tora is head of Greig Middleton Asset Management

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investors will also benefit launch could well have from this low charge. The of Dresdener's funds, £100,000 invested in funds.

DRESDENER RCM Global Investors has introduced a new flat administration charge of £30 plus VAT for its entire range of 14 investment trusts held in one of its ISA wrappers. Existing Dresdener

investment trust PEP

fee remains constant, no matter how many PEP tax years are combined. Simon White, Dresdener's head of investment.

says: "Investors who have taken out a PEP since

"Taken with a £7,000 investment from 6 April into an ISA, an investor could be

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paying a PEP/ISA administration charge of 0.03 per cent on their entire tax-sheltered investment."

Total expenses for some including annual management charges and

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other expenses within the trust, would come to 0.46 per cent - less than most tracker funds, according to Mr White.

Gartmore 2

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Getting your share

Own shares? Don't forget to claim your dividends. By Paul Slade

have failed to claim over £300m worth of the share dividends that are due to them, new research has just revealed.

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المحديد

The research was conducted by the Unclaimed Assets Register (UAR). The managing director of UAR, Keith Hollender, says: "There can be various reasons why dividend cheques are not paid in, but in most cases, it is due to the fact that the company has the wrong address on its share register.

"That is not usually the compamy's fault - it is more likely that the shareholder has not notified it of a change of address."

Bankers have responded to UAR's findings by urging savers to take their dividends as direct transfers rather cheques. All this would require is filling out the direct credit mandate which about 80 per cent of shareholders are sent along with their dividend cheques.

Direct credits are the mirror image of direct debits. Instead of automatically taking money out of your account, they automatically

BACS, which runs the banks'

per cent of people claim they would like to get their dividends by direct Tony Hobman, who took over as credit, but only 30 per cent actually do so.

Mike Jeremy, a BACS spokesman, says: "The excitment of receiving a cheque is not the ideal context for people to concentrate on the dividend payment they are going to get in six months' time and how they prefer it to be paid."

Your best bet of tracking down any dividends you are owed is through the company

Some of the shareholders surveyed by BACS see the cheque as proof positive that the dividend has been paid. But Mr Jeremy points out that each direct-credit payment generates a tax-credit voucher, sent through the post. This confirms the date and amount of the payment, together with details of the account into which it has been paid.

ProShare, a lobby group which works at promoting wider share automated clearing process, says 46 ownership, is supporting BACS' call

ProShare's chief executive last Monday, says: "In principle, anything that ensures people get their dividends is a good thing, People have invested in the company paying the dividend - they own that company - and

dend. It is yours." UAR plans to launch a service later this year allowing shareholders to find missing dividends from any number of companies with a single search. Mr Hollender hopes this search will cost shareholders no

more than £15 per person. Mr Hollender says: "With the cooperation of the registrars, we should be able to create a database which will make it as easy as possible for shareholders to find out whether they are entitled to something. In many cases, the time when that is most appropriate is when someone dies, an executor is winding up the estate, and he has got to get in all the assets."

Until that service is up and running, your best bet of tracking down any dividends that you may be owed is via the company whose shares you own. Call the head office telephone number and ask for either the share-

holder services department or the company secretary's office.

Yellow Pages, directory enquiries or the Stock Exchange Year Book in your local library are all possible starting points. Before picking up the phone, arm yourself with details of your shareholding and a note of any previous addresses where you have one of the benefits of ownership is that the company pays you a divilived since buying the shares.

Mr Hobman says: "If you think vou are owed dividends, or you are not sure, go and check with the company. They should have records which show whether you have any dividends that are not claimed and, in principle, you should be able to get that sorted out fairly quickly."

Beware of companies which write to you out of the blue saying they have discovered dividends or other assets belonging to you, and offering to tell you about them for a percentage fee. These companies' charges are high and the information they offer is often no more than you could uncover for yourself with an hour or two's work.

Dividends which remain unclaimed after 12 years revert to the company which issued them.

Unclaimed Assets Register: Bath & West Buildings, Lower Bristol



Road, Bath BA2 3EG (01225 461006) Shares bring home the bacon - but not if you forget to claim your dividends

How to avoid losing your home if you lose your job

Now that very few people can expect a job for life, taking out mortgage payment protection couldn't be more important. By Andy Couchman

FOR MANY people, making sure that they can keep up their mortgage payments is a fundamental part of their personal welfare state provision. Mortgage payment protection is an effective, but expensive, way of doing that. Employment patterns have changed dramatically in recent years and unless your insurance arrangements reflect this, you could be in for a rude awakening if anything goes wrong.

Today, many people who would once have expected a job for life are on short-term contracts, have already experienced redundancy, or have set up their own business and are now self-employed. Now, however, these people can insure against redundancy as well as against illness or disability. For most people, their commitment. If they can no longer

afford to pay the mortgage then they may well lose their home.

If they are forced to sell, they are unlikely to achieve the best sale price and getting a future mortgage can be difficult, or impossible if there are serious arrears.

Once, the State would pay the mortgage if illness or redundancy hit. Since 1995, after some high-profile cases where once-wealthy individuals had their six-figure mortgages paid by taxpayers, help is restricted to mortgages up to £100,000.

The State will only pay interest which means the outstanding capital will not fall - and only then from nine months after you first claim. If you still qualify, but your partner works more than 24 hours a week or you have more than £8,000 of savings,

mortgage-payment protection. This 30 or 60 days after you are made can be useful as otherwise you may is not the same as mortgageprotection, which is life assurance that pays off your mortgage if you die. It is one of the cheapest forms of life assurance, not least because with a repayment mortgage, the capital you owe goes down each year.

When you have a mortgage, your lender is likely to try to persuade you to take out its mortgage payment protection (MPP) policy, sometimes also called ASU, or accident, sickness and unemployment. But less than one in three of us, 28 per cent, have such cover, whereas the Government and industry body, the Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML), wants to see an increase to 55 per cent.

redundant or can no longer work due to illness or accident and pay your mortgage costs for up to 12 months until you are able to return to work. A number of exclusions apply, although these are usually what you might expect - self-inflicted injury,

war, for example. In the past some policies did not cover the self-employed or those on contract but most now cover contract workers provided that the contract has been renewed more than once, and small businesses if the firm goes out of business.

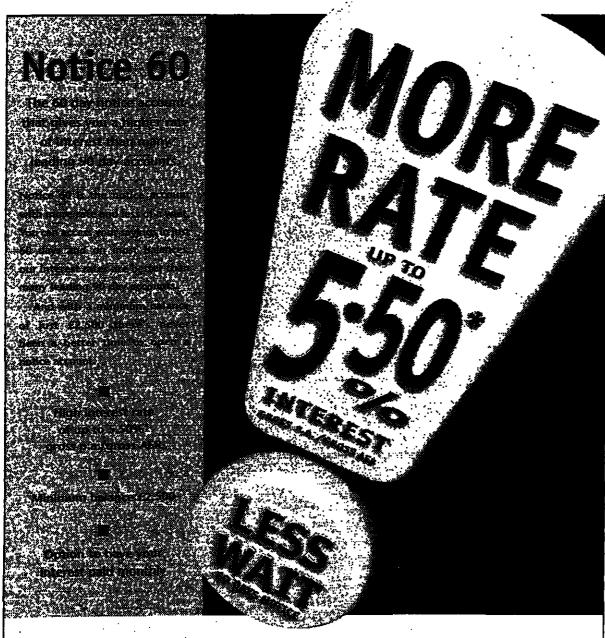
Specialists such as John Charcol will sell policies to existing as well To help, the CML has drawn up a as to new borrowers, often undercut list of policy requirements that its lenders' rates and can provide What you can do is to take out policies. A typical policy will pay out monthly mortgage payment. That HealthCare Insurance Report

be able to pay the mortgage but still have little or nothing to live on,

To work out what cover would cost, multiply your monthly mortgage cost in hundreds of pounds, by the premium rate. So, if you pay £400 a month for all your mortgage costs, taking part in a crime, pregnancy, or including insurance, and you are with the Woolwich, you would pay four times £5.75, or £23 a month.

The maximum amount you could receive would be £400 times 12 or £4,800, so cover is not cheap, and the insurance company has the right not to renew the policy or, in some cases, can give you just 90 days notice if they decide that the risk is getting too great - if we had another major recession for example.

Provider	Maximum monthly benefit	Paid after	Paid for	ASU rate per £100	Unemploymer only rate
Abbey National	£1,500	30 or 90 days	12 months	£6.94(30d)	£4.71 (90 days £4.92 (90d)
Alliance &					
Leicester	£2,000	30 days	12 months	£5.00	N/A
Portman	£1,500	60 days	12 months	£5.45	£3.90
Woolwich	£1,000	60 days	12 months	£5.75	N/A
John Charco	1 £1,000°	60 days"*	9 or 12 Months	£3.14 (9m) £3.65 (12m)	£2.55 (9m) £2.90 (12m)
• up to £1,50	0 for income	protection	** 30 and 900	tays also avallal	ble



See how our rates compare Alliance & Leicester† 4,60% Abbey National 4,25% Britannia 4.80% Helifax 60 Day Gold 3.55% 4.55% 90 Day Capital Builder 3.80% Nationwide 90 Day Premier 90 Woolwich

Source: Moneylacts 30.3.99, tincludes an interest premium of 1% payable only for the first year

To open an account just call into your nearest Alliance & Leicester branch with your investment and two forms of identification. For details of your nearest branch please call:

0800 412 214

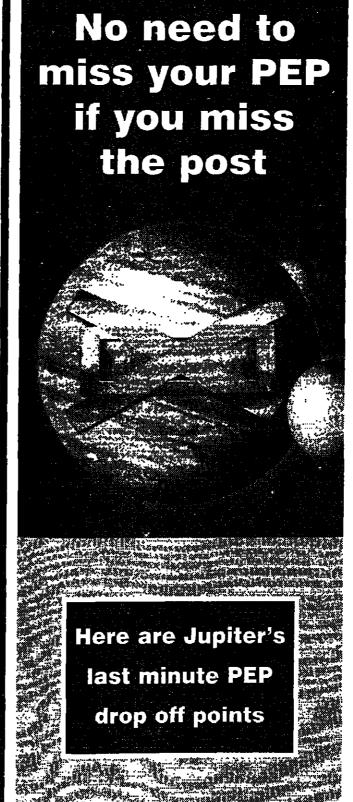


Common sense in a crazy world The rate shown of \$ 50% applies to believes of £100,000 plus, 5.05% for £50,000 plus, 4.80% for £25,000 plus, 4.50% for £10,000 plus, 4.25% for £2,500 plus The rate shown of 5.50% appears to exercise or a trouving pear, 3.50% for 2.5,500 plus.

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Miskin, CF7 8ND. Tel: 01443 224 204 EDINBURGH - Caledonian Hotel, Princes Street, EH1 2AB. Tel: 0131 459 9988 GLASGOW - Glasgow Moat House, Congress Road, G3 8QT. Tel: 0141 306 9988 GUILDFORD - Jarvis Hog's Back Hotel, Seale, Nr Farnham, GU10 1EX. Tel; 01252 782 345 LEEDS - Weetwood Hall, Otley Road, LS16 5PS. Tel: 0113 230 6000 LONDON - Jupiter Unit Trust Managers, 5th Floor,

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f you regard a car as merely a means of transport; if you think driving is a chore; if you think your driveway would be more attractive if it was empty; if you are tone-deaf - then do not bother reading further. But if these strictures do not apply, and I hope they don't, then let me tell you about the Alfa GTV V6 24V.

Rationally, this is a pointless car. Its maker claims it to be a two-plustwo, with room for children in the back - but they would have to be children with no legs and no desire to peer through the high side win- also had a chance to drive a more dows. There is little room for luggage, because much of what should be boot-space is taken up by the moving skeleton of beautiful aluminium castings that is the rear suspension. And it costs a lot: £30,000.65,

to be absolutely precise. You enjoy many things of which you have no rational need, I expect. Eating out, drinking decent wine, listening to music, watching a good plete with those 17-inch wheels and film. reading an imaginationexpanding book, that sort of thing. May I suggest, then, that you add driving this Alfa Romeo to your wishlist of uplifting experiences?

First, though, you need to know why it's now, particularly, that car Its engine growls deliciously you need the experience. The GTV, even when idling, and blares a tasty and its open-top Spider sibling, chord as the revs rise, a sound you gained a few cosmetic modifica- will want to hear time and time tions late last year, which made for again. This might sound daft, but the a tidier interior and a greater feel- engine has a voice, a singing voice. ing of all-in-oneness (earlier versions It is also pleasingly powerful, with used to rattle and creak a bit). At 220bhp and a hefty dose of pulling bend too quickly because it will

SPECIFICATIONS

RIVALS

BMW 328i Sport Coupé: £28,795. Unusual nowadays in having rear-wheel drive, the BMW is fast, fun – but obsolete. The new model will be arriving

Fiat Coupé 20V Turbo: £22,850. The Alfa's biggest problem is this Fiat, which is equally striking to look at, and equally quick - but much cheaper than the GTV. Peugeot 406 Coupé V6 SE: £27, 270. Styled, like Alfa's GTV. with Pininfarina's help, the svelte Peugeot is roomier. But it's far less sporting, so has a different type of appeal.

power right across the speed range such that you don't really need those six forward gears.

They are good to have, though. With their help, you can keep the engine spinning right near its sweet spot, blipping up and down through the gears with an accelerator whose eagerness borders on the abrupt. If the GTV could tackle corners with

¥THE INDEPENDENT

ROAD TEST

the same intimacy of communica-tion, life would be sweet indeed. But it doesn't, quite.

Some cars let you trim your cornering line with the accelerator. Ease off the power, and the nose tucks into the corner. It's good fun if the suspension engineers have done their job properly, and it can be useful if you have arrived at a

help you get round. In the Alfa, though steering is done through the steering wheel alone. And it's a steering system which just gives you a resistance to work against, not a proper feel of the road.

Your awareness of cornering effort comes instead from the side forces on your body, and the sound of the tyres munching at the road surface. At lowish speeds, you just point and the Alfa tracks round the bend. At a more frantic pace, you can feel how the rear suspension, that intricacy in aluminium, uses its geometry to quell the front wheels' desire to drift wide. So the steering alters your course accurately even when you think the limit of grip must be drawing near. Forget the accel-

erator. Just steer. Technically, this is terrific. Actually, it makes you feel you're more observer than participant, which is at odds with that soulful engine. Nor does it help that the brakes, despite being high-prestige Brembo components of this interior are

The Alfa GTV, a car that really does drive the imagination

items with smart red calipers (a favourite of racing-car designers. feel soft and springy.

So you seek other delights instead, such as an interior trimmed in soft leather and a dashboard full of cowled, recessed dials redolent of something from the 1960s. That the

the ride seem smoother, too, because there are no bangs and rattles to emphasise the bumps.

All is not ideal, though. The front seat cushions are too flat, and despite costing £30,000 the GTV lacks an adjustment to put this right. Loosen the steering wheel's height

better screwed-together now makes adjuster, and the wheel will wobble worryingly sideways as well as up and down.

An imperfect package, then. But parts of this car - the looks, the engine - engage the soul and scupper sense. That's excuse enough to love the Alfa GTV V6 24V Drive one. and be uplifted.



Working out which of the roadside-assistance deals is the best is a long, hard slog. By James Ruppert

THE SO-CALLED fourth emergency service (otherwise known as the AAI and its closest rivals, the RAC and Green Flag - who really needs them? Well actually you might just find that they will come in handy at least once or twice during your motoring

Despite the fact that you could pay anything up to £206 a year to a recovery service, and that cars are supposedly becoming more reliable, the peace of mind you get by having membership is incalculable.

Getting stranded with a stricken car leaves you at the mercy of local garages, which may have three-figure call-out charges. Then there are storage fees, having to hire a car, or arrange accommodation. Organising all that in the middle of Europe does not really bear thinking about.

Essentially, membership of a rescue service is a form of travel insurance. Trouble is, the marketplace is complicated and confusing. I know, because I've just spent a couple of days on the telephone asking

Publications

questions and wading through tons of literature. So far I'm only slightly the wiser.

A good place to start is with

Make and model:

220bhp at 6,300rpm

6.5sec, 20-25mpg

six-speed

profile tyres.

Price: £30,001

Alfa Romeo GTV 3.0 V6 24V

Engine: 2,959cc, V6, 24 valves,

Performance: 155mph, 0-60 in

that time, members of the press

exciting version of the V6-engined

GTV, fitted with a six-speed gear-

box and fatter wheels with lower-

Alfa Romeo's UK importer was

still debating with itself whether or

not to bring in this ultimate GTV V6.

and how it ought to look. That debate

comes here early next month, com-

an aerodynamic body kit which in-

cludes a rather visible rear spoiler.

It looks brash and thrusting, but the

Alfa has the physique, both visual

Aural? Yes: this is a very "aural"

and aural, to take it.

is now over, the six-speed GTV

Transmission: six-speed

gearbox, front-wheel drive

the AA, the dominant organisation with 9.4m members. It has the world's largest fleet of recovery vehicles - 3,600 - and claims that it can fix nine out of 10 vehicles by the roadside without the need for recovery. Not only that, its average arrival time is just 35 minutes.

Levels of cover extend from the basic, £43 "Option 100" which provides roadside assistance, and then recovery home or to the nearest garage, up to the comprehensive "Option 400": from £128 for single membership to £189 for family cover, this gives you roadside assistance, "Relay" to your home or ultimate destination, a replacement car, onward travel or accommodation if a fix isn't possible, "Home Start" for home visits, and 72hour European breakdown

The individual nature of AA membership means that the cover attaches to the member and not the car, and also extends to one other person at the same

assistance.

address. Any family member under 21 is covered, so if your six-year-old is a passenger in the neighbour's car for a school run, they can call the AA.

Then there is the RAC. Although individual membership starts at £39, its Standard Cover is £109: as a driver, or passenger you'll get roadside and at-home assistance, plus relay. You can add extra services and cover for others for a set fee: £25 for joint cover and £75 for European cover. What might appeal to many is a sort of no-claims discount worth £25 a year if you don't call the RAC out.

Not all recovery services operate big vehicle fleets like the AA and RAC. Green Flag, with more than 3.5m members, has a national network of 1,500 operators and 6,000 technicians. It offers five levels of service. starting at recovery-only cover for £34. If its operators don't manage to get to you within the hour you get a £10 rebate.

Britannia Rescue covers around 400,000 vehicles and its annual membership starts at £37. The company has a loyal following amongst caravanners

because it doesn't charge extra for recovery, and also has one of the fastest average response times at 33 minutes.

Several direct-insurance companies have joined the recovery-service bandwagon. Just like its insurance operation. Direct Line Rescue actually quotes on an individual basis rather than having a set fee, and operates a no-claims bonus scheme: the annual fee reduces by 10 per cent if you don't call

For me, Direct Line quoted £124.80 for its comprehensive Recovery Plus for two cars, Kwik Fit operates in a similar way, quoting for the person and car. For £69 I was offered a scheme which also provided European cover, homestart and a £10 rebate if its operatives failed to reach me in an hour.

Comparing prices is difficult, not only because the levels of service differ, but also because many organisations prefer you to pay by direct debit, which affects the amount, you pay. For instance, the AA charges a oneoff joining fee if you don't want to use direct debit. That fee starts

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at 55 for Option 100, and goes up in £5 increments to £25.

It is also important to establish whether the cover relates to the car or the driver. The direct insurers seem to favour the former. Unfortunately there is no substitute for reading the small print.

To make things easy you could simply buy a brand-new car. Most have some sort of recovery package for a year, or occasionally more.

Mondial Assistance has a ioprofile, but is a major force throughout Europe, operating dedicated recovery services for Volkswagen, BMW and Land Rover amongst others. According to its research, the second most common reason for a call out was a flat battery, with running out of fuel at number nine. Maybe if we paid a little more attention to car care, we wouldn't need to rely on any rescue service. So just how

AA: 0800 444999; RAC: 0800 029029: Green Flag: 0800 000111: Britannia Rescue: 0800 591563; Direct Line: 0181-760 9933; Kwik Fit 0845 272 2200

lucky do you feel?

		KESC	UL					
	Price comparison of closest available schemes paid by direct debit							
	Organisation Cover	1 Vebicle	Vehicle/	2 Vehicles				
			Personal					
	Greenflag Recovery only	€34	£64	£51				
	AA Option 100	£41	264	£64				
	RAC Individual	£39	£61	E61				
	Greenflag Roadside Assist	£38	£88	£57				
	Britannia Rescue Rescue Plus	£37	£61	£57 ·				
	1							
	AA Option 200	£75	£99	. 993				
	RAC Individual	E73	£95	£95				
	& Recovery		•					
	Greenflag Comprehensive	£72	E102	£108				
	Britannia Rescue Standard	£64.50	£88.50	£96.50				
1	AA Option 300	E103	£128	£128				
	RAC Ind/Recov. Home	£99	E121	£121				
ł	Greenflag Comp & Housecall	£98	£128	£154				
1	Britannia Rescue							
Į	Comprehensive	£86	£110 -	£136.				
١								
1	AA Option 400	£126	£152	£152 ·				
1	RAC Individual/Recov	£124	£146	E146				
ł	Greenflag Comp Cover	£98	E128	E158				
Ì	Britannia Rescue Deluxe	£117	£135	£186				
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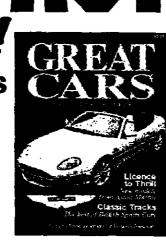
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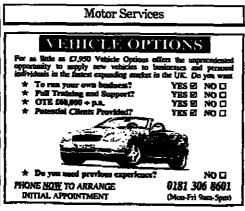


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MY WORST CAR STEWART LEE'S MORRIS MARINA COUPE

Kwik Fit 0845 272 2200

A right little raver



"There was nothing antiseptic about my Marina. This was a car that had lived'

I BOUGHT my grandad's 1970 tan-coloured Morris Marina Coupe for £50 in 1989, and it managed to be both the best and worst car I have owned.

What I loved were the little details which made it so different from boring modern cars. First of all, it had continental wing mirrors, which were fashionable when the car was new. These, if you recall, were fixed to the front end of the wing, out of sight of the driver, and there was no way to adjust them. Brilliantly useless.

My grandfather had also fitted leopard-skin seat covers which really set this Marina apart, especially as the leopard skin covered the steering wheel. It also smelt used - there was

remember being driven around in as a child, so there was a strong emotional attachment.

The Marina may have been slow, but it was brilliant at getting me to poorly paid - indeed, mostly unpaid - stand up gigs all around the country. I of times I spent sleeping in it at motorway services.

Once I parked at the deserted end of a car park to be woken at 3am by an illegal rave which had kicked off with my Marina in the middle of it all. Did I mention that it was an

automatic? Well, the gearbox had long since given up behaving in a conventional manner, so I had to juggle the brake nothing antiseptic about it, this was a motor which had lived.

and accelerator to persuade it to work. On the whole it was

Finally, it was the car I can very good at getting me to where I wanted to go, but then it would suddenly expire.

Source: James Ruppert

That happened after a gig in Edinburgh. It got me there, but had to be towed back home. I sold it for scrap and managed to get back what I paid for it. Before it went though I prised off have lost count of the number all the badges that said "Marina" and "Coupé" and put them in a box which Γve still got.

I regret getting rid of it but I couldn't afford a new engine. If I owned it now, I reckon it would look really cool and eccentric, whereas back when I was a penniless stand-up, it just looked pathetic and a bit sad.

Stewart Lee is currently op-peuring on BBC2's This Morning with Richard Not Judy' at midday on Sundays

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SECTION OF CHARLE

PROPERTY

The street smell of success

Spotting the next trendy area before it's trendy is a risky business - but it can be very rewarding. By Gwenda Brophy

coming area is a dicey business for buyers, as much a matter of when as where to buy. By the time the bright frontages of the coffee chains are up, the area has already made it. So what are the signals that astute buyers can spot before the price hikes?

Clerkenwell, an old area of London between the City and the West End where prices rose 30 per cent in the 12 months from spring 1996 and by a further 20 per cent in the 12 months after, is a prime example of the hotspot phenomenon.

"The market in Clerkenwell was very fragmented at that time, with a dearth of residential stock," says Philip Jackson. of Stirling Ackroyd. A classic case of increasing demand meeting fixed supply, the result was predictable. "A wise buyer at that time would have seen Clerkenwell as being good value, compared to Islington and Bloomsbury."

The experience of Clerkenwell suggests that the dynam- home sector of the property ics related more to meeting new tastes among buyers. "A major structural change was going on in the property market. Buyers were losing their inhibitions about city-centre living. Many successful developments were conversions from factories, old print works or warehouses: it was very much the idea of selling a lifestyle."

It was - and is - a phenomenon of a different set of prior- a distinct advantage. ities being brought to the market, says Ben Smith, of Halifax Property Services. same shift, for example Leeds with the Riverside warehouse development, where centrality Frank's Rupert Sweeting. is a big asset and traditional facfor this market irrelevant. One after all, to make a profit."

for the nervy. "The precari- the public schools.

rying to pick the ousness of the initial 'will next up-and- it/won't it' stage can frighten many people off. Just one development can spark of an area - or not - so it can be highly speculative," says Harry Hill, of Hambro Countrywide.

> "The first people who signed contracts on the recent wharfside developments in central Birmingham were taking a big risk. As it happens it has gone like a firecracker but if things had gone wrong buyers could very have found themselves next door to those being rehoused by the council. At the start it is strictly for the brave."

> "The first wave of buyers in Clerkenwell were quite different people in terms of being more prepared to take a risk", confirms Phillip Jackson, particularly since much of the infrastructure development came later. As the development looked more assured and infrastructure was put in place, the investment was seen as less risky, and friends and colleagues were making a go of it. The late starters had to come in at a higher price, of course."

The more sedate family market, where solid neighbourhoods, schools and access to transport links are the overriding concerns of buyers, seems light years away from the frenetic activity of city centre developments.

Yet in its own way it too has been evolving, and those areas that can meet the varied demands and priorities of this sector can find themselves with

"This year 16 per cent of private sector pupils are boarders. The proportion was a third just "Many cities are witnessing the a decade ago. It has had an inevitable effect on the prime housing market," says Knight

Meanwhile pupils in day pritors such as good schools are, vate schools have risen by some 15 to 17 per cent. "Parents positive signal to buyers is the are recognising that many less presence of investors, who aim, expensive and lesser known schools are getting results just



lways been extremely

Signs of up-and-coming times in Clerkenwell

"The changes going on in "However that stock is now 95choices about schooling have 99 per cent privately owned. made their effects felt on the predominantly by middle-class structure of the housing marfamilies. It can mean 15 per ket, and in some cases those cent premiums on a three-bedeffects have been startling. room house inside the school catchment area."

"Most of the houses in the catchment area of one particular school in west Colchester in the market may want to take that has excellent results are council property:" says Claire Hurst, of Bairstow Eves. popular for the variety of this weekend.

schools available." says Camilla Lindsay, also of Knight Keen spotters of future shifts

Frank. "But we have started seeing a trend of parents moving to the centre of Oxford so that their children can walk to school." If that takes off, then perhaps a perusal of the school league tables and the purchase note of another trend. "Oxford of a pedometer could be the most profitable way to spend

Geraint Lewis

STEPPING STONES



Victorian value... Annie Phillips and her son outside their Brighton home Andrew Hasson

"HOW MANY house moves have I had?" asks freelance writer Annie Phillips: "Too many to count when I was younger..." Annie currently lives in Brighton with her son and a friend, but her first buy was a "cute" twobedroom cottage in the Devon village of Ippledon, which she bought in 1980

with her partner for £16,500. Three years on they sold for £21,000 and after renting several places "rashly" bought a 1920s bungalow near Cranborne, in Dorset, which "stood in a marshy

field, complete with pig sty". It cost £27,000 but the purchase was a lengthy affair: "The Marquis of Cranborne owned the land and wanted to retain hunting, shooting and fishing rights."

He was to be disappointed. "My partner was a hunt saboteur so this seemed inappropriate and we delayed buying until the clause was diminished to with permission', which of

course we'd never give." The bungalow was situated down a "totally inaccessible" lane and the couple were kept busy: "We spent most of our time bailing out the sewage that seeped from the cesspit."

In 1984, having "tastefully redecorated", they sold for £36,000 and moved to Lewes, in Sussex. Here, Annie and her by then husband bought what she calls her "favourite house", a two-bedroom Victorian cottage which cost £40,000.

In 1986 she became pregnant. They sold for £54,000 and for £60,000 bought what Annie calls "an inappropriate Thirties semi" on the edge of town. It was not a successful move. "I felt like a Stepford Wife. My chief memory is of a sloped garden which was impossible to negotiate with

a carry cot." The couple split up, sold for £90,000, and for £94,000 Annie bought another

terrace" in Lewes. Here she lived for five years, landscaping the garden and installing an Aga, but by 1994 a desire to reduce the mortgage persuaded Annie to "undersell" for £84,000.

The next purchase, Victorian again, was a twobedroom terraced house in Brighton. A year later Annie had the place "looking like my house" with stripped floors and doors and, two years later, a loft conversion.

Annie's home is now worth a reassuring £95,000: "I feel I am nearer to the price I should have got for my last Lewes house." But as that is now worth more than £100,000, Annie asks: "Why do we ever move?"

GINETTA VEDRICKAS

If you would like your moves to be featured write to Nic Cicutti, Stepping Stones, 1 Canada Square. London E14 5DL.We will award £100 to the best story

London's £50,000 bargains

South of the river, fifty grand can still go a way. By Ginetta Vedrickas

A RECENT article in this section asked what £500,000 buys you in London or the Home Counties; the answer, sadly, was not very much.

How much harder is it, then, when your budget is confined to £50,000? Along with firsttimers, dewnsizers and investors, I went scouring London's streets in pursuit of

Optimistically I start north of the river with Joanna Haydon-Knowell, of Muswell Hill agency JHK. "You might get something in Tottenham or Wood Green but no chance here. Good one-bedroom flats around achieve around £90,000 and I've just sold a studio for £82.000."

Taking Joanna's advice I head for Walthamstow, which does have the Victoria Line in its favour. Warren Byrne, of Spicer McColl, says most firsttime buyers "come in at £60,000" but says that it is just possible to stay below the £50,000 mark. You can't get much here because we're well served by transport." Currently on offer at £49,995 is a first resale it's not so important, but floor one-bedroom conversion flat in a Thirties house that needs decorating but does have a 60ft garden.

So, although cabbies may river may be your best bet-but just how south? Not far at all, according to Stephen King, owner of Grange Hill Estates. Elephant to Rotherhithe. He says that £50,000 will bag you a two-bedroom flat (three with an one: "This is the last cheap corner of London. It really is the

only hot spot left." Lately Stephen has queues of investment buyers waiting to snap up the ex-council properties. Two-bedroom flats in Elephant and Castle and on the Northern and Bakerloo lines currently cost as little as £53,000 but produce rental incomes of around £230 per week.

Could the glut of investment buvers come unstuck when



In some areas of London you'd do well to buy a shed for £50,000

they wish to sell? "Pick your estate carefully," advises Stephen. "If you're only concerned with rent and aren't planning to make money on the while some flats, for example on the Aylesbury estate, are lovely and big, when it comes to reselling you have a problem." Banks' and building societ-

balk at your outrageous re- ies' reluctance to lend on exquest to go there, south of the council stock has eased and some now consider flats above the eighth floor. Grange Hill has on offer at £55,995 an ex-council two-bedroom flat with balwhose beat extends from the cony in Ightam House, SE1.

For another source of bargains, look up. Above the multitude of commercial properties extra £5,000, and that's in zone are flats which offer great value and access to transport. Halifax is selling a one bed-

room flat in need of refurbishment over a shop in Hinton Road, SE24 (Brixton) for £25,000. It is 15 minutes' walk from the Tube and near Loughborough Junction overground on the Thameslink line.

Halifax also has a two-bedroom property over a shop, for £43,950 in Peckham Rye, SE15. Victoria is just a 15-minute ride from Peckham Rye station.

This is London's last cheap area. It really is the only hot spot left'

Auctions often turn up surprises. Andrews & Robertson's next sale is on 16 April, and the catalogue features many London properties with guide price tags of £50,000 or less.

Going under the hammer is a freehold three-floor semi-detached house (complete with tenant) in Clapham with a guide price of £10.000. Buy this and a one-bedroom flat in Deptford for £20,000 and you could still have the £15,000 needed for an advertising hoarding in West Norwood - should this be your heart's desire.

Venture into the depths of south-east London and possibilities widen. Zone three and beyond brings period features and even the chance to own part of a listed building. Letts Residential has a flat converted from a listed Ministry of Defence building in Woolwich with a gallery style bedroom and private courtyard for £56,995. "In Woolwich and Piumstead

you can buy two-bedroom houses or three-bedroom flats for £50,000," says negotiator Adrian Strong. He is also keenly awaiting improved transport links, which will make properties such as the two-bedroom modern house near to Woolwich centre he is selling at £56,000 even more attractive.

Out in Thamesmead £43.000 buys a three-bedroom town house overlooking Southmere Lake and £52,995 a four-bedroom town house, both through Halifax's Abbey Wood branch.

Buying means compromise and at the bottom end of the market this may involve shifting your sights a bit further. Fifty grand won't get you Mayfair, but it can get you a toe on the ladder. Happy hunting.

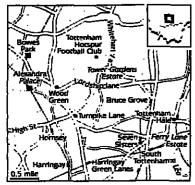
Letts Residential: 0181-317 3317; JHK: 0181-883 5485; Spicer McColl: 0181-509 0931: Halifax Abbeu Wood: 0181-311 0102: Hulifax Dultoich. 0181-299 3711: Grange Hill Estates: 0171-237 4333: Andrews & Robertson Auction: 0171-703 2662



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The poor man's Hackney



om Broadwater Farm to bagels, Tottenham has come a long way in 15 years. The 1985 riot has not been forgotten, but the estate occupies only a modest plot of a region of London that is dominated by a massive network of reservoirs edged by parks. marshes and the River Lee.

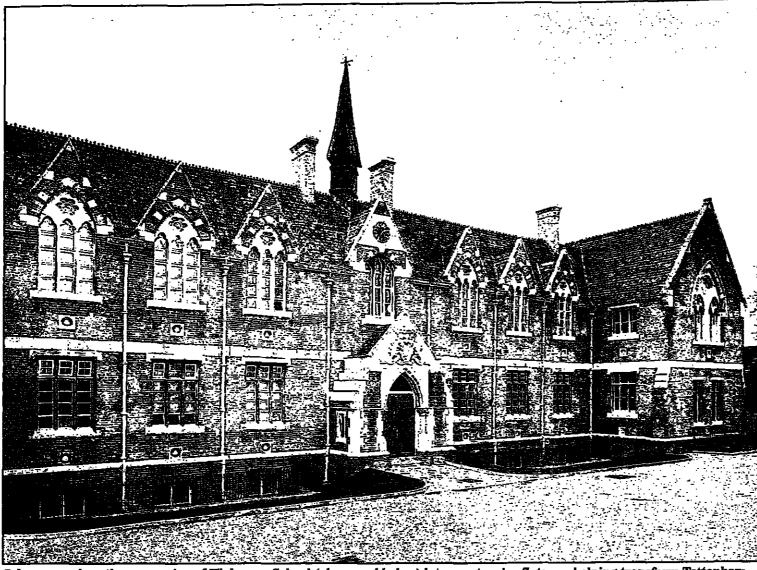
Some inner-city areas not far from Tottenham, such as Islington and Hackney, have pockets of handsome period properties. Possessing lowercalibre housing stock, Tottenham's gentrification will be constrained for architectural if not social reasons. However, its parkland and waterways offer considerable consolation.

The northern section of Tottenham, mostly N17, is considerably more remote from the city centre than N15 to its immediate south. Underground and rail connections are much thinner here than in south Tottenham, but the high road is the A10, a straight line to the City and Liverpool Street Station.

The council estates which once blighted Tottenham now represent some of its choicest properties. "The Ferry Lane Estate is extremely popular, especially the flats that provide spectacular views of the reservoirs and of the river," says Clive Dickman, of Cousins estate agents. "And Tottenham Hale underground station is in walking distance or reachable by bus."

Also worth considering, says Mr Dickman, is the Tower Gardens Estate, a conservation area with many former council properties that lies north of Broadwater Farm across Lordship Lane. "It was built up over different time periods, from the turn of the century to the Twenties and then

the Fifties, so it has different styles." The Dowsett Estate, east of the high street, is pleasant and affordable. Housing extends eastward here up to a border formed by industrial sites, the marshes and the reservoirs. "It is



Schemes such as the conversion of Highcross School (above and below) into spectacular flats are helping transform Tottenham

£10,000 cheaper here than in N15. For the money that would buy you a flat in N15, you could buy a small house here." says Mr Dickman.

Dickman. "It is also the safest area." The one area he would "avoid at all costs" is around Tottenham Hotspur Football Club, but cost is precisely the Nearby is "the nicest part of attraction of such neighbourhoods. To

The area may possess lower-calibre housing stock, but its parklands and waterways offer considerable consolation

Tottenham, off Bruce Grove, around Mr Dickman, the particular plague Radley, Elmhurst, and Whitley Roads and Philip Lane north to Fore Street. There are small cottagey properties and some larger houses, some of

here is congestion, although micturation and regurgitation might also have been mentioned.

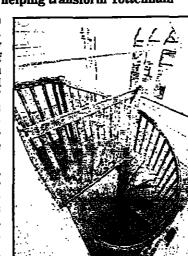
Budget-conscious owner-occupiers them with five bedrooms," says Mr find themselves forced to compete against hordes of investors for a nited supply of available properties.

"We are absolutely swamped by investors," says Mostafa Sbitri, of Duncan Phillips estate agents. "You get a good yield here. In six months I don't recall selling to a single end user."

Mr Sbitri notes that investors generally pay less than owner-occupiers, but "they are quite desperate and are willing to pay more, even close to end-user prices".

Ominously for owner-occupiers, Mr Sbitri thinks that many of these investors buy with the intention of letting their properties to the homeless on emergency bed and breakfast placement. Buyers still have to watch their step in Tottenham.

ROBERT LIEBMAN



THREE TO VIEW ALL ROUND GOOD EGGS



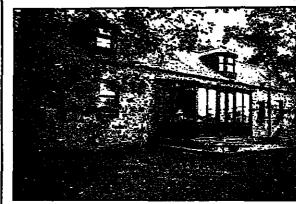
IN EGHAM, Surrey, this modern detached four bedroom house is one of the first to be put up for sale through the newly opened branch of Townends - and the estate agents are celebrating their successful take-off by

giving away Easter eggs to customers this weekend. Updated over the last year, the house has three reception rooms and comes with a double width garage double-glazing and a newly fitted family bathroom with a white suite. There is a 17ft sitting room with an archway leading through to the dining room and a family room with wood veneer flooring and patio doors to the garden. The main bedroom is fitted with a range of Sharp's wardrobes and furniture. The price is £219,950; details from Townends (01784 430666).



TITUS IS a grade II listed three-bedroom house in Good Easter, one of the most popular of the villages around Chelmsford, in Essex. Formerly two cottages, the timber-framed house is partly thatched - it was re-thatched in 1996 – and stands in an acre of unoverlooked south-facing gardens adjoining farmland.

The property has an 18ft sitting room with an open fireplace and built-in shelves, a study and a dining room with a wide brick fireplace. The kitchen is fitted with green-glazed custom-made units in pine, and there's a downstairs shower room with a power shower and side jet. The bedrooms have sloping ceilings. Outside there's a double garage, workshop and greenhouse. The price is £345,000; details from Trembath Welch (01371 872117).



FIND THE good life at Croftgloy, 25 miles from Elgin in Morayshire, in the north-east of Scotland. It is a traditional three-bedroom Scottish dwelling in just under two acres, and it is being sold along with a

variety of outbuildings, including a poultry shed. The two-storey house has a flag-stoned hall, a conservatory and a 14ft farmhouse kitchen with a Franco Belge stove also providing central heating and hot water. The sitting room has exposed stone walls, panelled floor and open fire and there is a formal dining room. Outside is a large U-shaped steading which includes barn accommodation, storage, workshop, kennels, stables and tack room, plus vegetable and herb gardens. Take offers over £92,500 to GA (01343 548861).

THE LOW-DOWN

Transport: Compared to N15, N17 is "more car than tube," says Mr Dickman. Tottenham Hale is the only Underground station (Victoria Line, zone 3), and the rail stations are Bruce Grove, White Hart Lane, and Northumberland Park, into Liverpool Street. The North Circular provides access to the M1 and M11.

Prices: Flats cost £45,000-£70,000; two-bedroom terraces in Tower Gardens sell for about £80,000, "We are now back to where prices were

at their peak in the 1980s. I reckon prices will go up pretty much with the London average. N15 will do better," says Mr Dickman.

Properties: Some new secondhand Fairview homes occasionally come onto the market. Draper's Court (in previous lives, Highcross School, then Drapers College for Boys, then Tottenham High School for Girls) is a Metropolitan Home Ownership redevelopment of a listed building yielding 27 flats including split level dwellings with

high ceilings and oversized gothic windows. Priority for the one, two, and three-bedroom units go to Haringey and north London residents. Half-shares cost £25,125. Missing link: According to a Council brochure, nearly half of Haringey's 216,000 population have an ethnic background: "Greek and Turkish Cypriot, African and Caribbean, Indian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi, Irish and Chinese.

Recently, Kurdish and Somali

refugees have settled in Haringey,

too. The people of Haringey speak a total of 193 different languages." Little wonder, then, that Haringey has some half-dozen shops purveying bagels, including several on one small stretch of the

High Road in N17. Their spell-check has fleas: To the great British "bagel versus beigel" debate, a council brochure adds "biegel".

Lea versus Lee: Lea Valley Park to the north. Lee Valley Park to the east, and Alexandra Park Palace to Ownership, 0181-829 8000.

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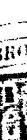


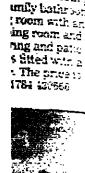


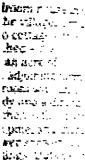














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DEPENDENT rday 3 April 1999

COMMENT • ARTS & BOOKS • COUNTRY & GARDEN • DESIGN • SHOPPING **ROBERT CARLYLE:** THE PEOPLE'S

PROFILE, PAGE 5

FILM STAR

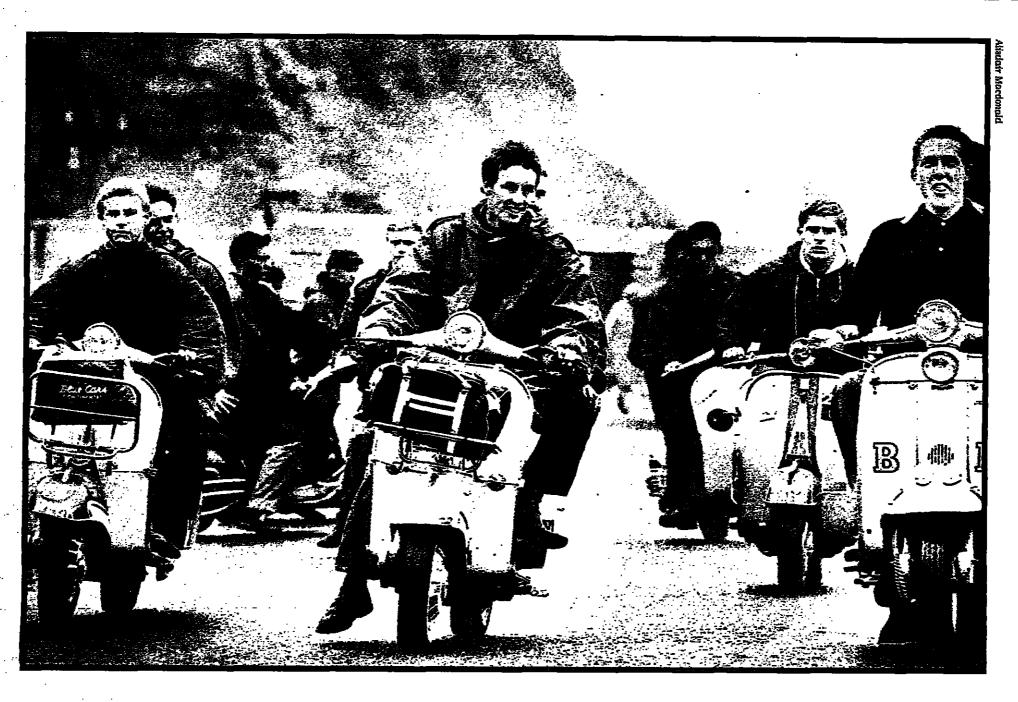
ANNA PAVORD, PAGE 15



THE PLACE TO **GO TO GET AWAY**

TRAVEL, PAGE 19





Ready, steady, go!

COULD tell you about the details. wanted to preserve their secret, turned out to be About the punch-holes across the toes conservatives after all. of a pair of five-guinea elastic-sided You couldn't blame them, in a way. As moments Raoul boots, or about the way a soft conga drum cushioned Mary Wells as she crooned "Two Lovers", a Motown classic from the days when their greatest records sold only a few hundred copies in Britain to people who felt that they were receiving samizdat messages from a parallel universe. About hanging around a West Indian record shop on the bad side of town, hoping for an invitation to a shebeen. About a girl turning up for a summer date in a long black skirt and chunky shoes: so crazy, so cool. About the texture of a long. suede coat, or the smell of a box of blue-label Stax 45s at Transat Imports above a Chinese wholesaler on Lisle Street. About the week when a plain, medium-grey, six-button cardigan was the only thing to

have, and it wasn't worth going out if you didn't.
For some, it was already over by 1964. For the people who were Mods then, the whole deal had to be a secret or it was nothing. And by 1964, too many people were in on it. Too many people watching Ready Steady Go! on Friday nights. Too many people spending their Saturdays staring at the shop winlows in Carnaby Street. The ones who didn't want to share it, who didn't want anything to change, who

go, it had more than its share of perfection. For other people, the world was moving too fast for them to want to jump off. Life-changing events were practically tripping over each other. But since none of the participants dreamt that any of it could possibly have any significance beyond the moment, nobody stopped to reflect. There were no social anthropologists to get in the way, and so no self-consciousness (and no irony, either). Eventually there was Tom Wolfe, with an essay called "The Noonday Underground", about the kids who spent their hunch times dancing at Tiles on Oxford Street, followed by Nik Cohn, who never really liked the Mod thing, and Time magazine's Swinging London cover. By that time things definitely were sliding downhill. But until then things just happened, one after another, with an ecstatic inevitability - a chain of cultural change, from A to Z, from innocence to decadence, happening because people wanted it to, and because that was the way their imaginations took them. And

it happened with astonishing, exhilarating speed. The fun was in the details, in the things that could be controlled, such as the depth of a pocket flap. But two of the bigger and more generally consequential things took place over the Easter weekend 35 years ago. On Easter Saturday, 28 March 1964, Radio

Caroline began transmitting pop music from a ship in the North Sea, feeding an appetite starved on the one hand by the BBC's Light Programme, which treated pop with a Reithian loftiness, and on the other by the affectless, pay-for-play pabulum of Radio Luxembourg, the despised "Fabulous 208", which made you twiddle your thumbs through a dozen Helen Shapiros or Frank Ifields for every Maurice Williams and The Zodiacs. Caroline not only played better music; its illegitimacy made it feel as though it really belonged to its listeners. Its existence was more important than its output.

BY RICHARD WILLIAMS

Two days later, the Easter Monday tranquillity of the Clacton seafront was disturbed by running battles between gangs of Mods and Rockers. There had been sporadic outbreaks of street violence in Britain since the war - between gangs of razor-toting south-London Teddy boys in the early-Fifties. between white racists and Afro-Caribbean immigrants in the Notting Hill and Nottingham race riots of 1958, and between black-shirted Moslevites and anti-Fascists in 1962. But the hundreds of kids who confronted each other at an Essex seaside resort over the Easter weekend of 1964 were inaugurating an inter-tribal ritual that was to take its place among the defining phenomena of mid-Sixties Britain.

"The Wild Ones invaded a seaside town yesterday," The Daily Mirror gasped on its front page the next day, "1,000 fighting, drinking, roaring, rampaging teenagers on scooters and motorcycles. A desperate SOS went out from police at Clacton, Essex, as leather-jacketed youths and girls attacked people in the streets, turned over parked cars, broke into beach huts, smashed windows, and fought with rival gangs. Police reinforcements from other Essex towns raced to the shattered resort, where fearful residents had locked themselves indoors. By last night, after a day of riots and battles with pol-

ice, 97 of them had been arrested." By Whitsun, the riots had spread to Southend, Bournemouth. Brighton and Margate, where two people were stabbed and a magistrate described the perpetrators of the affray as "little sawdust Caesars" The prime minister, Sir Alec Douglas Home, asked his home secretary. Henry Brooke, whether there was anything that could be done. Among the suggestions were Bills to outlaw the unauthorised possession of purple hearts, to suspend the driving licences of offenders, and, mysteriously, to crack down on obscene publications.

Rockers, with their greased-up hair and motorcycle leathers, represented a thorough commitment to the past - albeit a past that dated back barely a decade to Marlon Brando in The Wild Ones and the prototype rock'n'roll of Elvis's Sun records. Mods,

"modernists", were the future; neat, clean, eool, and aspiring to an air of affluence and Continental sophistication. Rockers were the Ace Cafe on the North Circular, with Eddie Cochran on the jukebox; Mods were the Scene Club in Ham Yard, where a young, would-be pop manager called Peter Meaden took his band, The High Numbers, later renamed The Who, to hear the D.J. Guy Stevens, play Derek Martin's "Daddy Rolling Stone" and Inez and Charlie Foxx's "Mockingbird". There are no prizes, as you stroll around the cappuccino-culture streets of today's Soho, looking at kids with neat razor-cuts

and clean-line clothes, for guessing who won. Mod culture was rather more various than subsequent revivals and analyses might suggest. It was clothes and music, of course, but it was also about a shift of attitude. It was both exclusive and inclusive. It was kids in fur-hooded parkas on Vespas with racoon tails on the dummy aerials, buzzing down to the coast for a Bank Holiday rumble with a bunch of blues and bombers in one pocket and a hammer in the other. Yet for others, it was also impeccably cut mohair suits in sober hues, andthe perfect button-down shirt, and French New-Wave movies, and Miles Davis, and dope bought from the Jamaican

boys who fringed the crowd. Whether the Mods were aware of it or not, they adopted the pose of refined alienation proposed in Continued on page 2

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REVIEW



This man carried a cross around the world. Did it do him – or us – any good?



Will Self meets Doris Lessing, grande dame of English letters

REAL LIFE



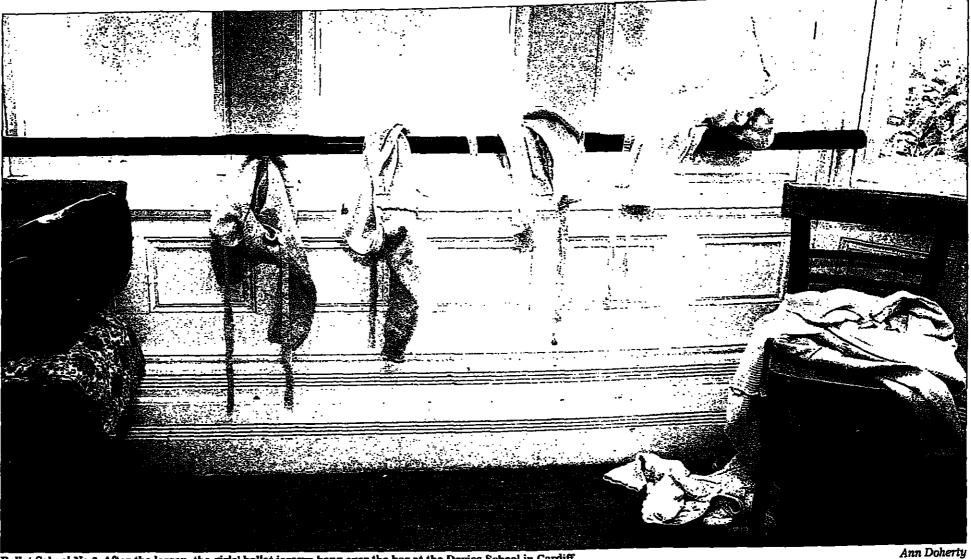
What happened in Ulster when Protestants and Catholics danced together

CULTURE



How the man who dreamt up the Spice Girls invented a new band

PLUS AN Wilson Alain de Botton Peregrine Worsthorne Michael Bywater



Ballet School No 6: After the lesson, the girls' ballet jerseys hang over the bar at the Davies School in Cardiff

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk (e-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address). Letters may be edited for length and clarity

Nato aim unclear

Sir: The air strikes against Yugoslavia have jeopardised the lives of 10.5 million people and unleashed an attack on the fledgling forces of democracy in Kosovo and Serbia.

The protection of a population under threat is a noble duty, but it requires a clear strategy and a coherent end game. As the situation unfolds it is becoming apparent that there is no such strategy.

Analysts are already asking whether the air strikes are still really about saving Kosovo Albanians. Just how far are Nato members prepared to go? What comes targets? What happens if the war spreads?

These questions crowded my mind as I sat in a Belgrade prison on the first day of the Nato attack. In the cell I shared with a murder suspect I asked myself what the West's aim was for the morning after. I've seen no indication that there is a clear plan to follow up the Western military resolve.

My friends in the West keep asking why there is no rebellion. People feel betrayed by the countries which were their models. With the bombs falling nobody can persuade them that this is only an attack on their government and not their country.

The West has washed its hands of the people. Albanians, Serbs and others, living in the region. Thus the sins of the government have been visited on the people. Is this just?

Nato's bombs have blasted the germinating seeds of democracy out of the soil of Kosovo, Serbia and Montenegro and ensured that they will not sprout again for a very long time. VERAN MATIC Editor in Chief, Radio B92, Belgrade, Yugoslavia

Sir: Adrian Hastings (letter, 1 April) suggests that the Nato attack on Yugoslavia can be legally justified through references to the Genocide convention of 1948. But this convention was not ratified by the US Senate, on the grounds that it is poorly drafted, and could allow other governments to intervene in the United States' affairs.

It is true that the Americans gave their support to a resolution upholding the principles embodied in the convention. But it would be eccentric for the United States to claim legal justification on a basis which it had itself refused to ratify.

The burden of the convention concerns not the suppression, but the punishment, of genocide, which leaves open the whole question of how the genocide is to be suppressed. All that the convention can offer us is contracting party may call upon the competent organs of the United Nations to take such action under the Charter of the United Nations as they

consider appropriate". Article 9 does give contracting parties the right to refer disputes to the International Court of Justice. But contracting parties are states, so this offers no protection to groups comp laining about states. And the United States refuses to recognise the competence of that court. KEN COATES MEP

(Independent Labour. Nottinghamshire North and Chesterfield) Mansfield, Nottinghamshire Sir. Which Geneva

Convention is Alex Bellamy referring to (letter, 27 March) when he writes of the Geneva Convention? The Geneva Conventions of 1949 are four in number. Presumably he means number IV ("Relative to the Protection of Civilians in Time of War").

We are reading and hearing a number of pronouncements on international law these days. It is getting a bit like quoting the Bible. Choose the parts that support your beliefs, but don't worry too

much about being selective. International law on armed conflict and on human rights is complex and is not easily reduced to a couple of simple propositions. The right not to be murdered, raped, driven out, dispossessed, massacred

or maimed is clear, but the law on intervention is not. FREDERICK STARKEY Mold, Clwyd

Sir: Mr Agani, and thousand of his fellow Kosovars, have not been executed by the Serbian forces ("Kosovo's men of ideas are dragged from homes and shot", 30 March). They have been murdered.

"Execute" implies legitimacy - the carrying out of a judicial sentence. Execution, however morally wrong, is a legal action; murder never is. LORNA ARNOLD

Laster's meaning

Sir: I think it sad that someone as obviously intelligent as Will Self ("Why I Hate Easter", 2 April) cannot see beyond the man-made trappings of Easter to the significance of the festival.

Simply because centuries of Western ideas have rendered the scenes of Holy Week, the Crucifixion and the Resurrection to fit our own cultural view, it does not mean that the events should be cast aside as farce.

Does anyone imagine the Pharisees spoke "Standard -RP even - English" or gave allegiance to such a ludicrous figure as a toga-and-laurelbedecked Pilate?

It truly irritates me when a faith is put down because of the images with which generations of leaders have adorned it. It would be helpful if we looked beyond what is outer and, before feeling justified in demoting Christianity to the ranks of Aesop's Fables, tried to learn rather than make a passing judgement on what is easy to merely look at. NEIA GLYNN Tolworth, Surrey

Sir: Will Self can not have it both ways. In his depressing rant against Eastc. he tells us that he doesn't know what happens to us after we die. He then tells us that there will be no resurrection. So he does know after all. Professor BARRY FANTONI London SW4

People's theatre

Sir: While it would be impossible not to applaud the worthy sentiments expressed by the Culture Secretary, the chairman of the Arts Council and others in your special report Who goes to the arts? (30 March), it is surprising that none of the contributors was able to draw attention to one theatre which has so successfully achieved many of

Situated in Newham, East London, the Theatre Royal Stratford East has succeeded in attracting new audiences from a racially-mixed community by a commitment to writers and artists from all backgrounds and by offering concessions to the young and the disadvantaged.

the aims they wish to promote.

Over the last 20 years, 14 of the 20 most successful productions have been targeted at audiences of Afro-Caribbean or Asian ethnic origin.

The reward is that the Theatre Royal is the only major drama client of the London Arts Board to have received no increase in its core revenue grant for the last five years and that its application last year for funding from the Arts Council's Arts 4 Everyone scheme was overlooked. CHARLES MORGAN Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire

Sir: Who goes to the arts? Once again the ritual lament that the arts are too white and middle classes emanates from a chorus of guilt-ridden, white, middle class voices.

The arts are a good thing: we know this because they tell us, and they tell us because they know what's good for us. With missionary zeal the arts must be taken to the cultural wastelands; opera in the football stadium, Shakespeare in the pub.

I write as a musician who, after 25 years in Manchester, has never set foot inside either Old Trafford or Maine Road. Nor, in those 25 years, have I heard the anguished voices complain that football must shed its male, working-class image and reach out to new

audience bases. No-one has brought the thrills of the live match to the Bridgewater Hall or the Royal Exchange Theatre, nor persuaded me that for the cost of a ticket to these venues I could watch

United in action. By all means let's demystify the arts, but let's not be patronising in the process. GEOFF THOMASON Stockport, Cheshire

CSA 'is toothless'

Sir: I object to Dr Simon Fordham's bitter comments (letter, 26 March). There is another side to the story.

I have been a single mother for five years a tried avoiding the Child Support Agency's pursuit of information on the whereabouts of my daughter's father, on moral grounds, until they

threatened to stop my benefit. I received no financial assistant for our child from her "devoted" father and money that has recently been extracted from him by the CSA has been offset against my benefit.

In September I started back on a nursing course, from which point maintenance has been paid directly to me: £5 per week. Any attempt to have this sum increased has failed and my ex-partner has been the one running around in a BMW teiling the CSA he earns only £60 a week.

The sooner that maintenance is returned to the civil courts the better. For children in my daughter's position the CSA is a toothless dog. NAME AND ADDRESS SUPPLIED

Pay and display

Sir: My journey to work takes me past the principal BMW dealership in Munich. Behind hectares of glass, the vehicles are poised and ready. On the forecourt, a further selection of Bavaria's best.

On my homeward journey on Tuesday evening I could see the staff preparing for, it now transpires, the Longbridge announcement "Rover plant rescued by

£150m grant", 1 April). All of the forecourt vehicles were being re-arranged.

By Wednesday morning a selection of Rover vehicles were set before the ladies and gentlemen of the press. The BMWs remained inside.

The following morning the forecourt was back to normal not a Pover in sight. SIMON ALLEN Munich, Germanu

A critic's lot

Sir. Your listings writer Gerard Gilbert asks of BBC2's Late Review: "How did Allison Pearson, Tony Parsons and Tom Paulin get this one sewn up?" (Th Review, 1 April). The current series of Late Review has rotated 15 critics, with appearances by the three Ps together forming easily a minority of editions.

Why are the guests always journalists?" he asks. Novelists and historians are wellrepresented. We don't use producers, actors, and publishers because those involved in an artform are usually reluctant to criticise it. MARK LAWSON Presenter Late Review, BBC2 London W1

IN BRIEF

Sir: Thank you for your leading article, "Words can only be stretched so far in Northern Ireland" (29 March) There are weapons and terrorists on both sides of the divide. Why cannot Mr Adams and Mr Trimble acknowledge this, shake hands and say, "We will work together in the new administration to decommission all weapons in Northern Ireland"? Am I being too naive and is this too simplistic? PETER ARTHUR Cambridge

Sir: What a wily young prankster you are! Fancy thinking that we'd fall for that one about the 24 per cent pay rise for peers (report, 1 April). STEVEN FORD Haydon Bridge, Northamptonshire

Easter, 1964 and the Mods were off to the coast

Continued from page 1 1942 by Meursault, the protagonist of Camus's l'Etranger, and refined 17 years later by Alain Delon's portrayal of the amoral Tom Ripley in René Clément's Plein Soleil. Maybe it was no coincidence that in 1961 Penguin published the first paperback edition of l'Etranger; it was a set book for those sitting O-level French the following year, and few compulsory texts can have exerted such a powerful effect on the imaginations of a generation of students. Everybody has a reason for joining their adolescent tribe, and, looking back, I guess that Camus must have provided mine.

Meursault, of course, killed an Arab in Camus's story in an act of dispassionate racism that might, at a stretch, provide a link with the meaningless violence of the scooter-borne mods and the more clearly motivated version enacted by their direct successors, the skinheads and suedeheads who provided the foot soldiers for

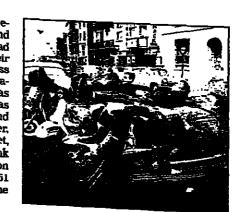
various putrid little neo-Nazi mobs. But no one spent much time wondering what it all meant. There were clothes and music to worry about. The clothes were ditched even before they fell apart, which would rarely be more than a few weeks unless you were one of those who, like the

pages of Town magazine in 1962 (and later to re-emerge as Marc Bolan), ordered suits from Mr Bilgorri of Bishopsgate - in which case you probably wore them for a couple of weeks longer. The music changed every Friday, as each batch of new releases revealed a nugget or two of previously unimagined truth And I'm grateful for that in a way that

has never dimmed. To live through that time with any intensity of appreciation was to understand, and never to forget, the exact degree of musical evolution involved in the relationship between the records released by, let's say, Martha and the Van-15-year-old Mark Feld, featured in the dellas between the spring of 1962 and the

autumn of 1965. The list comes straight sense it didn't produce much. It was somefrom the memory: "Come and Get These Memories", "Heatwave", "Quicksand", "Live Wire", "In My Lonely Room", "Dancing in the Street", "Wild One", "Nowhere to Run" and "You've Been in Love Too Long". Any listener with sympathetic ears would respond to the emotional and musical dynamism of each of these marvellous examples of early soul music; but if you weren't there, you'll never be able to understand how one grew out of another, and what that evolution represented, or be able to replicate the thrill of hearing each one for the first time in its own time

thing you felt, and when you turned round it had gone. Suddenly the whole culture had gone overground. The Beatles got their MBEs, Jean Shrimpton wore a mini-dress at the Melbourne Gold Cup, Time magazine came along, Ready Steady Go! was starting its last series, and the cinemas were showing Darling and The Knack and Blow-Up. Labour were back in power, and Harold Wilson was in Downing Street, being nice to pop stars. The last bank holiday riot seems to have taken place on Easter Sunday 1965 in Brighton, where 51 arrests were made. It must have been time Mod didn't last long, and in the concrete to move on.



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The strength of democracies fighting a just war

THE THEORY of the just war is not philosophically deep or well-rooted. A new collection of essays by Muslim and Christian authors, The Crescent and the Cross, reveals the extent to which it has been made up to suit the needs of changing times - and to which it has been largely ignored in practice. Two religions born in opposed moral styles - Christianity of turning the other cheek, Islam of conversion by conquest – both ended up forming a remarkably similar theology of the just war. In both cases, the idea of the holy war - the jihad or Crusade - is rejected by mainstream religious teachers. In both cases, the main conditions of a just war are the same. It should be fought only as a last resort in order to right or avert a specific wrong. The good that is done must outweigh the harm of war, and the conduct of the war must itself be just.

Those principles have now been codified in the secular texts of international law, but it is worth recalling their historical sources at a time when an alliance of mainly Christian countries is fighting a war in defence of a largely Muslim group, the Kosovar Albanians.

And it is worth assessing the right of Nato to claim that it is fighting a just war in Yugoslavia, not least because some of the opponents of military action have warned that the West is facing "another Vietnam". The point about Vietnam was that it was not a just war: it was essentially fought against the right of the Vietnamese people to national self-determination. It was doomed because the United States could claim neither the support of the Vietnamese people nor, more importantly, that of the American people. When the US generals claimed that they were fighting with one hand tied behind their backs, the truth was that they should have had both hands tightly bound; the constraints upon them were those of what US public opinion would accept, and they still got away with Agent Orange and the secret bombing of Cambodia.

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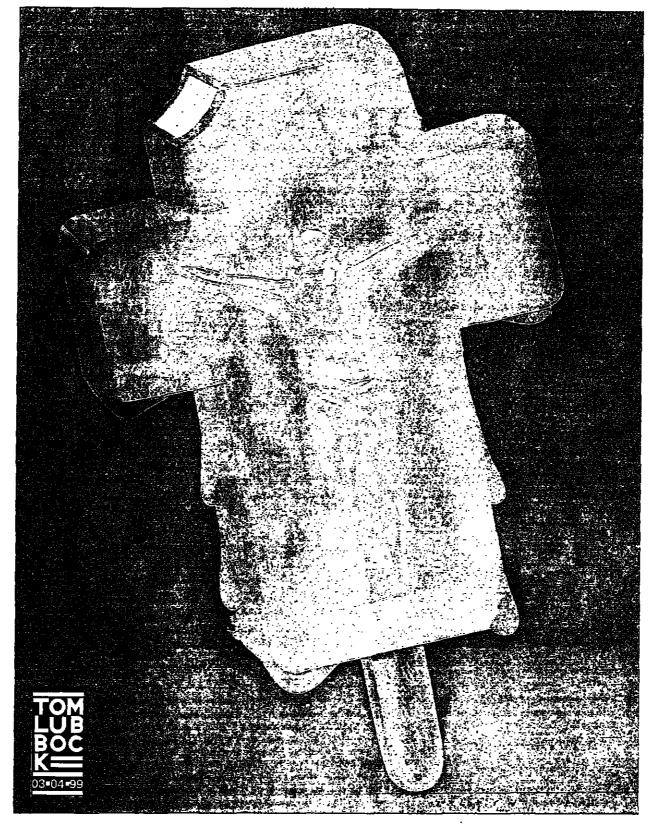
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If the critics mean simply that a war against Serbia in Kosovo could be long and difficult to win, that is not the same as saying that it will be like Vietnam. It is noticeable that very few voices in this country - mainly confined to a small rump of Conservative ultras argue that the defence of the people of Kosovo against Serbian terror is not a just cause. Morally, the old doctrine that the internal affairs of nation states are inviolate ended with the Holocaust in Germany. So the arguments against Nato intervention that count are those which assert either that air strikes are an immoral means of prosecuting a just war, or that the harm caused by the action outweighs the gain.

ond. All the techniques of modern warfare carry some risk of casualties among non-combatants. This has to be weighed in the balance with the second objection, which is that the Kosovar Albanians are now suffering more than they would have done if the Nato planes had stayed at base. Which might be a strong argument, except that it is conspicuously not being made by the Kosovar Albanians themselves.

All the same, it is incumbent on Nato's leaders now to show that the good that is obtained by this war outweighs the multiple damages and sufferings it has caused, and will cause. Now that the first objective, of



deterring Slobodan Milosevic from replacing one population of Kosovo with another, has failed, Nato urgently Here the comparison should be made with the Gulf

war of 1991, rather than with the war in Vietnam. Nato's implicit objective now is the liberation of Kosovo, as then it was the liberation of Kuwait; it should be made explicit, and the job will have to be done by troops on the ground, both those of Nato countries and those of the Kosovo Liberation Army, supplied by Nato. The KLA is no one's idea of a human-rights charity, but it is now the means to a just end.

The object is not simply to restore Kosovo to the Kosovars and to protect them. It is to put an end to the ambitions of Milosevic for a Greater Serbia, which is real and frightening, and which depends on an ethnic scorchedearth policy in several areas around Serbia itself.

It is significant that Tony Blair has not ruled out the use of ground troops, and that public opinion both in Britain and in the States is swinging sharply behind their use. This is how just wars in the modern world are fought by democracies whose leaders are open and honest with their people. We need to guard against jingoism. although the press coverage has, in fact, been rather restrained so far. The invention of the monster "Slobba" of Belgrade is a justified use of tabloid techniques to portray a tyrant in vivid colours.

But "Slobba" should beware: democracies are slow to strike but when they do, when they are convinced they are fighting a just war, they strike hard.

The Scots should seek independence

JOHN MAJOR was right when he cried seven years ago, in his awful, strangled tones, "Wake up! The Union is in danger". So it is, and so it should be. A union that cannot command the settled support of one of its constituents does not deserve to survive. Now, at last, as the campaign for elections to the Scottish parliament begins in earnest, the people of Scotland at least are waking up to what devolution means.

After getting the fright of its life, the Labour Party is off to a good start, pulling ahead of the Scottish National Party in the opinion polls. But this cannot conceal the underlying truth that Mr Major was right, and that the Labour/Liberal Democrat argument that limited home rule would stanch the demand for independence was wrong.

Far from taking the national question out of Scottish politics, a parliament in Edinburgh ensures that it will be even more central than before. That is not healthy for Scotland. Too much of Scottish national sentiment consists of an anti-English feeling, or if not "anti" then a feeling that all the ills of Scotland can be blamed on London. A Scottish parliament may have responsibility for education or housing policy, but like local councils, will only chafe against the constraints of budgets set in London.

This is not sustainable. Scotland is entering a oneway, Quebec-style airlock, in which the separatists need just one referendum to leave the United Kingdom. It would save a lot of time, effort and distraction if the people of Scotland chose to move quickly down this slipway.

There are good arguments against such a course. Nationalism, as we can see in the Balkans, can be an ugly thing. But nationalism would be a healthier force in an independent Scotland than in a grievanceloaded province.

Another obstacle to independence is the unattractive opportunism of the SNP, demonstrated this week by Alex Salmond's posturing against Nato strikes in Yugoslavia. If the Scots could achieve independence without having to vote for the SNP, it would at least force Mr Salmond's party to define a credible set of policies on the bread-and-butter issues.

It may be that the momentum towards independence will also change the Labour Party in Scotland (another political force in urgent need of reform), and produce a realignment of nationalist Labour with parts of the SNP and Liberal Democrats, embodying the consensual political values of John Smith in an independent Scotland.

The other argument posed against independence is that it would weaken England. If so, the English seem remarkably calm in the face of the threat. Most English and Welsh probably regard the secession of Scotland with the same equanimity with which they accepted independence for India or Kenya. Their attitude, rightly, is: if it is what the Scots want, why not?

So the question comes back to whether the Scots should want it or not. And the answer must be yes, if in the Edinburgh parliament a new national leadership can be fashioned to give expression to progressive, pluralist and pro-European values. An independent Scotland within the European Union would escape the whinge mentality of partial devolution, take responsibility for its own problems, and yet remain in partnership with its neighbours.

The importance of convicting this elderly man of murder

TWO DEATHS out of 6 million. A tiny sliver of a great evil. Two ordinary Jewish women who one morning half a century ago found themselves staring into the eyes of Anthony Sawoniuk. They would hardly have hoped for mercy. Too many of their kind had gone to death in the previous few weeks. When the Nazis arrived, the Jews of Domachevo would have known what to expect. What the poet Paul Celan called "death the master from Germany" reigned supreme in the remote fastnesses of Belarus.

Of these two vanished women we know little. The Holocaust obliterated their lives from memory; it uncreated them. What kind of people were they? Were they kind or selfish, were they practically minded or dreamers? Did they harbour big ambitions or were they, as we must suppose, creatures of the small horizon, living out their lives in an impoverished backwater of the Soviet Union. They might so easily have gone unremembered, those two lives extinguished in an East European forest, a patch of ground already stuffed with the dead.

That is the nature of genocide: destroy the group, deny the humanity of the individual Kill as you would kill mice or rats. Does a rat or a mouse have a face, much less a heart or soul? Of course not. So slaughter these verminous Jews. Kill without mercy until there is not one left. And when they are gone and there is no one left to tell the story, you will be safe from . any accounting for your deeds.

I am sure that is what Anthony Sawoniuk believed. For was he not but a little cog in a great murder machine, just one finger on the trigger, one fist raised among an army of millions? In a world of death, who could have wished just then that Milosevic and term they will be proved wrong. There

singled him out as any more guilty then the next man? I wonder whether he even remembered the faces of those two women. It is a romantic fallacy, I believe, that the mass murderer is haunted by the faces of his victims. I have known a few of these monsters and they are rarely haunted.

And for Sawoniuk, a veteran killer, there was the simple mathematical question of how many faces you could remember when you had seen so many go to their deaths. After so many terrified, doomed people had passed before him, was it likely that he would retain memory of the two women whose lives he stole in the forest of Domachevo? That would surely be asking too much. But, alas for Sawoniuk, there were people who remembered his face, people who had witnessed his individual contribution to the Holocaust. And five decades later, in a courtroom in London, the humanity, the individuality of two dead Jews from a small town in Belarus was finally acknowledged.

I heard the news on a car radio in London and cheered. In the running order, the story came ahead of news about the latest expulsions of ethnic Albanians from Kosovo. More stories of burned villages, men being led away, railway cars crammed with terrified refugees whose identity documents had been seized and destroyed. It was news to make one feel helpless. news to induce anger.

But somehow the Sawoniuk verdict helped to ease those emotions; 50 years on, a man who terrorised the innocent, a man who believed he would never be called to account, was sitting in the dock and hearing that he would spend the rest of his life in jail. And I brenica unpunished. I think in the long



FERGAL KEANE It is a romantic fallacy that the mass murderer is haunted by the faces of his victims

Arkan and the rest of the masters of terror in Yugoslavia might have glimpsed that courtroom scene. For if they did, they might have felt a chill, I say "might", because we are deal-

ing here with men who seem to show little concern for the possibility that they may some day face justice for their crimes. The fudging and dodging and weakness that they have experienced in their dealings with the West will doubtless have encouraged them to regard any threat of prosecution by a war crimes tribunal as nothing more than hot air.

They will reason, with some sound historical evidence, that the only reason Sawoniuk faced justice is that he was the soldier of a defeated regime. Had the Nazis triumphed, the old monster would likely be polishing his medals in Belarus. They may also take comfort from the fact that Radovan Karadzic and Radko Mladic are still at large, with the great crime of Sre-

will be a court and there will be justice. I have no evidence to prove that this will be so, simply the sense that the Western powers have passed a point of no return, which will end with Milosevic being called to account.

Seeing justice done is the central aim of the war crimes prosecutor. But there is a parallel duty of equal importance. It is to place on the record of our human history the truth of what happened under the Nazis and Stalin and Pol Pot and the Hutu extremists, and what is happening now in Kosovo. When the prosecutor stands up in court he begins the process of writing a real history, free from the lies of the propagandists or the simplifications of the media. It is a history that can be challenged in court, and at times the law will rule certain truths as inadmissible or even unprovable. But that is the law, and though we may not like it, though we may feel it denies us "full justice" or "full truth", it is still our best recourse.

If you want to understand the beauty of the law, think of those old voices in a London courtroom describing the crimes of Sawonluk. They were voices that spoke from half a century ago, but they had not forgotten. And they reminded us that the law is about witness: it is there to say, these things happened and we do not deny them. These things happened, and our collective memory must accommodate them.

We may have waited too long to act in Yugoslavia, and now we are shamed by the terrible images that now fill our television screens. But there is at least an impulse to act in support of those who are victimised by very reason of their ethnic background. And that impulse, which now drives Mr Blair, is

rooted in the knowledge of what happened when we failed to stop dictators in the past.

The crimes described at Nuremberg, the litany of horrors emerging in the Rwandan genocide trials, the immense body of evidence now collected on Stalin's terror, are part of a great block of uncomfortable truths that cannot be washed away. They are the warning we cannot ignore.

In Stalin's case the courts tried people under bad laws without even the pretence of justice. They were an example of the way the law can be subverted and put to evil use. But they also serve as an important lesson to us; when we try the likes of Sawoniuk, and if we ever get round to trying Milosevic or Arkan, we make sure the evidence is sound and the witnesses are credible. If that occasionally means releasing men we know to be guilty, so be it. As I mentioned above, what matters is memory, being able to produce reliable witnesses who can say: "I was there and this is what happened."

I am reminded of the Russian poet Anna Akhmatova describing a visit to a prison in Leningrad where her son was detained during the years of Stalin's Terror. People were disappearing and being executed and it seemed as if there would be no one to bear witness to the truth. An old woman recognised the writer and asked her if she could at some future time describe what was happening. Akhmatova answered that she could. "Then," remembered Akhmatova, "something like a smile crossed what had once been her face." There may yet be smiles for the terrorised people of Kosovo.

The writer is a BBC News special correspondent

Kosova children appeal to Independent readers Kosovar children refugees in Albania face cold, hunger and disease as winter deepens. Many are in deep shock, having witnessed their parents and relatives killed in the awful atrocities from which they fled. Albania, the poorest country in Europe, has few resources to

Your action will help children who have lost everything The European Children's Trust needs your swift

support the massive influx of refugees.

response to set up an emergency centre in Shkoder, northern Albania, to help 2500 refugees. Our centre will provide basic necessities and schooling to give security to the confused and frightened refugee children living in Shkoder.

These are children and families whose homes have been lost, perhaps forever. Special help is needed for the traumatised children who

have witnessed terrible crimes, and must now start to live a

£30 could buy emergency medicine and food supplements for 5 Kosovar refugee

children for a week. Kosove Emergency Appeal, The European Children's Trust, FREEPOST KE8359. 64d Queen Street, London, EC4B 4AR.

Please send what you can to save the displaced Kosovar children this winter. Call 0800 056 3686 now or cut the coupon below

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Please act NOW – your gift will give hope

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Rarely was victory needed so badly

ABC Spain

THE ESCALATION of the allied offensive is the only possible response to the terrible resurgence of repression imposed by Slobodan Miosevic. Rarely was a victory so urgently needed. With each day that passes the Kosovar Albanians step further into the darkness of the holocaust. The image of interminable caravans of refugees stripped by Milosevic of all their papers, escaping the death decreed by the authorities of their country and defying hunger, cold and sickness proclaims the urgency of vanquishing this will to commit genocide.

BORBA Yugoslavia

THE JOINT criminal demons of the USA, Great Britain, Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Belgium, the Netherlands and Canada have attacked the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. They are not choosing targets in their brutal strikes. They are not sparing holy places, which are the pride of civilization. They are bombarding monasteries, churches and mosques. Cemeteries are not sacrosanct to them. They want just one thing - to do us harm and subjugate us.

LIBERATION France

CAN ONE reasonably wait for "gestures" of goodwill from a man who, for almost 10 years, has engaged in ethnic cleansing, assassinations and massacres, as a consequence of which more than 200,000 are dead and millions displaced? Kosovo will be empty of its Albanian population in a few weeks. No Kosovars will remain other than petrified corpses. The members of the Western coalition who decided to act last Tuesday underestimated the Milogagement if one does not want the even get a piece of Kosovo if the to their support for the policy of tionably stronger adversaries: President Slobodan Milosevic does prize worth winning



THE WAR IN THE BALKANS

"peaceful solution" proposed by West were forced to agree to this Nato and the United States. They Turks, Austrians, Germans. Apart not get away with the programme Jacques Chirac to be nothing else in order to prevent an even worse than the peace of the cemetery.

SUDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG Germany

AFTER ALL that has happened, even the Albanians will hardly want to return to the Rambouillet accord and to a promise of autonomy. A changed agenda for new negotiations is now conceivable. It could contain words which have so far been unmentioned, such as

HAARETZ Israel

THE EVENTS in recent months in Kosovo are more than a mere internal conflict between the nations of the former Yugoslavia. What is occurring there borders on genocide. No country or society may remain indifferent in the face of these horrific actions. It is the responsibility of Israel's official institutions, the government and modify the coalition's rules of en- and "partition". The Serbs might the Knesset, to give real expression unequal struggle against unques- and can do to ensure that Yugoslav war, the political goal is the only

must do so not reluctantly or halfheartedly, but rather by making a clear, resolute stand and by taking tute a minuscule minority, the the necessary diplomatic steps. This is the responsibility of the entire people of Israel – the children of a nation that has suffered so much persecution - to another

The world press considers whether Nato's bombing campaign aimed at ending the humanitarian crisis in Kosovo can succeed

MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS Russia

persecuted nation.

THE SERBS are stubborn and ready

province is still looked on as the cradle of the Serbian nation. Thus. giving Kosovo away to the Albanians is for them like severing the right hand. That is why nobody can guarantee today that, in the very near future, Belgrade will give in and fall to its knees before Nato.

from that, even though Milosevic's

fellow clansmen in Kosovo consti-

THE STRAITS TIMES Singapore

cover of the wider war to carry out a pogrom of Kosovo and of its ethnic Albanians by killing them and destroying their property or driving them across the border as refugees to Albania, Macedonia and Montenegro. If the genocide were to continue, Nato's military mission of destroying Mr Milosevic's ability to wage war on the Kosovars would have failed to attain its political objective, which is to make him accept a settlement based on the Rambouillet accord, which includes the stationing of 28,000 peace-

he has embarked on: to use the

THE TIMES

SLOBODAN MILOSEVIC made his first offer to Nato last night. His demands would have been unacceptable before he put Kosovo to the 🐵 torch. They are both offensive and inadequate now. Mr Milosevic knows that; this is no surrender, but a feint designed to split the alliance. His timing is, as usual, tactically shrewd. The accounts given by the battered. traumatised refugees streaming out of Kosovo are evidence that an entire people is being persecuted with racist crueity. Nato's weaker minds must thus be tempted to pause and explore. Nato, and Western publics, should keep the past decade of broken Milosevic pledges clearly in mind and keep their nerve.

ST PETERSBURG TIMES Russia

NATO SHOULD call off air strikes and return to the negotiating table. Nato stumbled into this war, making promises to protect the Albanians that it knew it couldn't keep and then lashing out impotently to maintain its credibility. But Nato's credibility has been irrevocably damaged anvhow. It has attacked a sovereign country with the flimsiest of justifications. Its policy should now be aimed at saving lives.

MAINICHI SHIMBUN Japan

THE CURRENT air strikes against Serbia differ from the Bosnian campaign in many important aspects. They are being conducted on shaky legal grounds and raise many questions of international law. The scale of the bombing is also questionable. The current Nato bombing campaign targets Yugoslavia, a sovereign nation. Furthermore, Nato decided to begin bombing without seeking the ap-Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

US AIRMEN TAKEN HOSTAGE

The American press expresses its anger, and its resolve, following the capture of three US soldiers on the Serbian-Macedonian border

NEW YORK POST

WE JOIN with all Americans in wishing the soldiers a swift return home. We simply hope that the fate of the three soldiers does not become the driving force behind US policy. This is no normal administration. Time and again, it has shown itself willing to subordinate the nation's best interests to its own. If the president wants to tie a yellow ribbon to something, let it be to one of those high-tech satellite-guided cluster bombs. Let it be pointed right between Slobodan Milosevic's eyes.

DALLAS MORNING News

THE KIDNAPPING underscores the dangers of the US being drawn into the conflict on the ground. It is telling that even the question of who abducted the Americans cannot be answered with certainty at this time. That such questions



lays bare the morass into which Nato's enterprise has entered.

this won't turn the tide of US public opinion against the war

MIAMI HERALD

THE CAPTURE of US soldiers and the threat of their trial today is one of the scenarios dreaded most by US political and military leaders. This, along with the ceaseless horror of refugees, pushes America ever closer to full-scale war. Milosevic bets that holding the fate of soldiers in his hands will demonstrate to Americans the

DELAWARE TIMES

TALES OF "ethnic cleansing" couldn't capture the attention of the US public like the photos of three young Americans in Serb captivity. Anyone who gave the situation any thought should have known that there might be casualties. We can only stand behind our troops and leaders as the mission goes forward.

RUSSIAN INTERVENTION

International comment on the failure of Russian diplomacy to intervene effectively

BASLER ZEITUNG Switzerland

MILOSEVIC LAST June said to Primakov that he wanted to solve the problem in Kosovo "by political means". Against the peaceful population he would take "absolutely no repressive measures". President Boris Yeltsin praised this declaration to the heavens: "The whole world should see how we have come to an agreement, and there is no chance of going back on it." The whole world could see Milosevic's words weren't worth the paper they were written on. There is no reason why we should believe him now.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

BORIS YELTSIN demanded that Moscow's partners in the G8 group of industrialized nations urge Nato to stop the bombing. That will fall on deaf ears in the West and shows again that

Russia finds itself largely on the outside in this conflict. Moscow has done little except bluster and order some surveillance ships into the Mediterranean. The Kremlin could help resolve the crisis, and absent such an effort, its relations with Washington will and should suffer.

MILLIYET Turkey

NO LONGER considered the world's second superpower, Russia is no longer in a position to challenge the West and to threaten to intervene unless the Western offensive is halted. Instead of doing that, Moscow has taken the path of exerting diplomatic influence.

But Prime Minister Yevgeni

Primakov's initiative in this direction has been a fiasco. During a single round of talks in Belgrade, the hope evaporated that Russian diplomacy can end the Kosovo drama and ensure a reconciliation between Milosevic and the West.

THE KOSOVAN REFUGEES

Opinion on the massive Albanian exodus from Kosovo

THE AUSTRALIAN

THE TIDE of refugees flooding

out of Kosovo provides stark evidence of the fundamental fact of the war in the Balkans: Yugoslav leader Slobodan Milosevic is a barbaric dictator. The past week has shown the certainty of Milosevic's action. Even the faint-hearted doubters critical of Nato's stand against Milosevic must see that his accelerated attempted genocide... exposes the malevolence of the man and re-

THE GUARDIAN UK

efforts to stop him.

inforces the justification of the

THE SAME concentration of effort lavished on the aerial war against Serbia must now be applied to the task of housing and caring for the refugees reeling out of Kosovo. That no preparations of this kind were made by the governments dealing with Milosevic or by the Alliance military staffs as they laid their plans is more than a pity. The Serbs have stripped [the refugees] of their possessions and their documents and have tried to strip them of their dignity. All three must be restored, beginning with the last.

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

SINCE THE bombing began, at least 25,000 Kosovars have fled to Montenegro. The strains from bombing plus the refugees could end up toppling the republic's anti-Milosevic president. Milo Djukanovic. This is a rare case in which the standard logic is outweighed by the political negatives. Nato shouldn't bomb Montenegro. The humane treatment of Kosovo's refugees is something on which decent people - whatever their view of Nato - can agree. The civilized world must succor a people whom Slobodan Milosevic has torn asunder.

JERUSALEM POST

FROM AN Israeli perspective. the images of the refugees, the separated families separated. and the reports of killings and torture recall the plight of Jews during the Holocaust. (Though of course, the Germans and their henchmen slaughtered six million Jews out of hatred. and not because of any threat. real or imagined). Even though during World War II the Serbs showed great courage in resisting the Nazis, our sympathies today lie with the people of Kosovo.

DAWN Pakistan

SHOULD THIS situation continue and the number of refugees pouring into the neighbouring states swell, the conflict could widen. Already Macedonia has banned the entry of more refugees, while there is a limit beyond which Albania cannot accommodate the growing influx of fellow Albanians from across the border. Macedonia is in a difficult situation. Both Greece and Bulgaria eye it greedily and the two will never fail to capitalize on its difficulties. Albania has bad relations with Greece, and should Sero ground forces in their anti-Kosovar offensive clash with Albanian border guards, the present conflict

SUNSPOT US

could widen.

ATTENTION MUST be focused now on emergency aid for the refugees pouring into Albania and Macedonia, and even Montenegro in federal Yugoslavia, none of which can cope with the droves of people. Instinctive of-fers of tents, blankets, medicine, food and aid workers have come from many countries and nongovernment organizations such as Catholic Relief Services of Baltimore.

QUOTES OF THE WAR



"It's not a picnic. They must understand, if the ground troops come in they will be leaving in body bags. 'Arkan', Serb mercenary (above)

"President Milosevic should make no mistake; the United States takes care of its own," Bill Clinton, **US President**

"There's no knockout blow that can be delivered, either from the ground or from the air. It never was going to work instantaneously." George Robertson, Defence Secretary

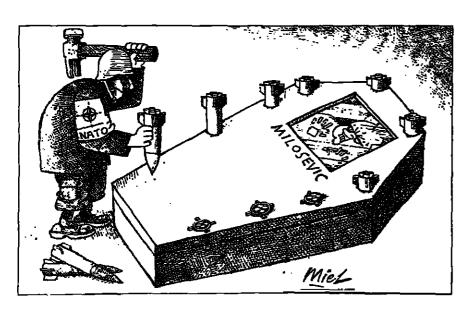
"Historically ignorant, politically inept and internationally illegai' Sir Peter Tapsell, Toru MP

describing Britain's involvement in the bombina "Milosevic is in charge of a campaign of mur-der and ethnic cleansing. I think by any

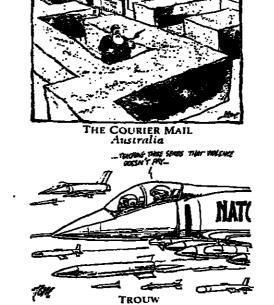
definition that's a war crime. Alastair Campbell the Prime Minister's press secretary

RESEARCH BY SALLY CHATTERTON

THE VIEWS OF THE WORLD



THE STRAITS TIMES Singapore



The Netherlands

حكذا من الاصل



The health drink that blew up the kitchen

EVERYONE HAS learnt something on every piste, when she came out this last week in St Anton. The youngest has learned to ski, the teenagers have learnt to snowboard, my husband has learnt the German for "but surely five hot chocolates couldn't possibly have cost 600 schillings" and I have learned how to make kvass.

Now kvass, as I'm sure you know, is not an Austrian drink but a Russian one, once consumed in vast quantities by health-conscious Soviets, and in smaller quantities by discerning Europeans, mainly Germans. However, it was not in fact as kvass but as "brot tronk" (bread drink) that I was first introduced to this elixir by the friend we always stay with in St Anton.

THE TIMES

ban Milosevill Tade in fer to Nato including the is would have been tra-

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She isn't Austrian, by the way, she's Irish. She met her husband. a dashing ski instructor with a girl

here to ski for the first time, and is now every bit as proficient on the slopes as he.

Not being much of a skier myself, we lost touch for a while. No. I'll rephrase that. I'm an absolutely useless skier despite spending a whole year studying at the University of Colorado - otherwise known as the skiing university, where lectures finished at noon and everyone, including the professors, disappeared into the mountains.

It's not that I cannot do it, it's just that I'm terrified of going fast, and, since the sole purpose of skiing seems to be to get down to the bottom of the mountain as fast as possible in order to go up again, there didn't really seem much point in my continuing.

"Why not try langlaufen, cross-



SUE ARNOLD

When he came back he found the oven door blown off and the turkey on the ceiling

country skiing," suggested my Irish friend in St Anton. She explained that she had given up skiing in

favour of langlaufen because it was

frantic toing and froing up and down the slopes.

So anyway, instead of kitting myself out in the complicated gear that you need for conventional skiing – Brobdignagian boots, extra gloves, sun block cream, packed lunch - and setting off at first light before the sun turns the piste to porridge, my Irish friend and I have a leisurely breakfast and towards noon prepare ourselves for a little

gentle langlaufen. I need special boots, but these are chic enough for Bond Street and supple enough for aerobics. Cross-country skis, too, are finer than normal skis, and because we're only going for a couple of hours we do not need to weigh our pockets down with iron rations. Besides, the track we are following

so much more peaceful than all that has built-in refreshments. It winds through Hansel and Gretel terrain, snow-laden pine trees sloping to a partly frozen river and, at the end, a rude mountain hut offering venison sausages and coleslaw.

> Expert langlaufers fly along at an incredible pace, but my friend and I take it gently so that we can talk. This year we discuss kvass. She's a great believer in its medicinal properties. Its organic components warm the blood. She holds with the anthroposophist view that it is because we eat so much overrefined food - white flour, white sugar, white rice - that our general health is deteriorating along with our moral fibre. Processed food chills not only the blood but the heart. Drinking a glass of kvass

> every morning will warm both. The only problem is, you can't

buy kvass in England So, whenever I leave St Anton my bags are weighed down with bottles of the stuff, but they only last a week. This year she has found a recipe in an old Russian cookery book, and that very afternoon we settled down to

It's a messy business. It's also extremely time-consuming. Basically you soak rye bread in water, stir in some yeast and a few raisins and let it ferment for three days. In reality you keep poking at it to make sure it's brewing properly, and when you do the rancid smell practically blows your head off. Straining the liquid from the foaming fungal mess isn't easy either, but I did it and tipped the dross into the biodegradable bin. Austrians are obsessed with recycling. Then we went out langlaufen again.

At this point I'll tell you about another Irish friend in London whose mother sent him a turkey one Christmas. He put it in the oven and went to church, but when he came back he found that the oven door had blown off and the turkey was on the ceiling. His mother had omitted to tell him she had secreted a bottle of poteen into the turkey's breast cavity.

Pretty much the same thing happened to my friend's biodegradable bin. The fermenting bread had blown off the lid and her kitchen floor, what you could see of it, was teeming. Fortunately we had three bottles of kvass to sustain us. Of course it's worth making. I shall do it at home in London, tipping the used bread into the river. Watch out for warmblooded, warm-hearted fish.

THE SATURDAY PROFILE

ROBERT CARLYLE, ACTOR

Aman for allregions

NOBODY LIKES to criticise Robert Cartyle. transatlantic gravy train has left him with Fans of lo-fi kitchen sink misery love him for his work with Ken Loach, and point out Trainspotting colleagues. The director that he's one of the few actors whom the director has cast twice.

Trainspotting, and for his endless use of Life Less Ordinary. the f-word in interviews. The cardiganed crowds, who lap up stuff like Ballykissangel and Heartbeat, love him for Hamish Macbeth - despite the character's dope-smoking in scenes that were transmitted just after the Sunday evening Thora Hird slot. And just about everyone who doesn't fit into these categories loves im for his portrayal of Gaz, the unemployed Sheffield steel worker who strips his way back to self-esteem in The Full Monty. Tony Blair, a man who knows a populist bandwagon when he sees one, slapped an OBE on Cartyle in the new year's honours.

> People's Film Star. Yet Carlyle is an unlikely leading man: physically slight, with teeth that would make an orthodontist scream. So why do

Which makes him.

people like him so much? His versatility, for starters: a scouse serial killer in Crocker, a Catholic cleric's boyfriend in Priest; a pub psychopath in Trainspotting, a bus driver-turned-Sandinista in Carla's Song; a shy, retiring policeman in Hamish Macbeth; an MS sufferer in Go Now; a hard-up Yorkshireman in The Full Monty; and an East-End mobster in Face. Yesterday, audiences could catch him for the first time as a dandy 18th-century highwayman in Jake Scott's Plunkett & Macleane. Later in the year, he's a 19th-century cannibal for Ravenous, a destitute Irishman for Alan Parker's Angela's Ashes, a wasted hippie in The Beach and an osprey-wielding bully-boy for the new Bond movie The World is Not Enough.

His roles tend to be carefully esearched. He bedded down in cardboard city to play a homeless man in Safe. He hung out with recovering heroin addicts for Trainspotting. During the filming of Cracker, he vowed he would play by the Lee Strasberg rules and keep a 24-hour grip on his character's Liverpool accent. To test him out, his fellow actor Ricky Tomlinson telephoned him at 3am, and found him as good as his word.

Audiences and critics believe so strongly in the idea of his versatility and thoroughness that they're quite willing to ignore his reckless involvement with regional accents that he can't quite master. His fragile mockney in Fuce and his dodgy Sheffield in The Full Monty were not quite as bad as, say, Brad Pitt's Irish accent in The Devil's Own, but they were fundamentally shaky.

Nobody, however, seemed to care. British audiences have remained loyal to him because he has remained loyal to came after Trainspotting.

a better reputation than many of his Danny Boyle and star Ewan McGregor went arm-in-arm to LA, signed up with Loaded readers love him for Begbie, his Polygram, and drafted in Cameron Diaz Pringle-sweatered, beered-up maniac in and Frances McDormand to co-star in A

LIFE STORY

Origins: Bom 14 April 1961 in Glasgow. Mother (Elizabeth) warked for the bus company, father (Joseph) was a painter and decorator.

Education: Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, 1983-86. Vital statistics: Married since 1997 to Anasta make-up artist. Career: Painter and decorator until

1983. Formed Raindog theatre company in 1991. Films: Silent Scream (1990), Riff Raff (1990), Safe (1993), Being Human (1994). Priest (1994), Trainspotting (1995), Carla's Song (1996). Go Now (1996), Face (1997), The Full Monty (1997) and 'Plunkett & Macleane' (1998). Three seasons of Hamish Macbeth on BBC1 (1994-1997)

Awards: 1995 Scottish Bafta for Hamish Macbeth, a Royal Television Society Award in 1996 for Go Now and Hamish Macbeth; Variety Club film actor of the Year, Bafta and Evening Standard Award winner in 1998 for The Full Monty. OBE, January 1999.

He says: "The work is all that matters.'

On Journalists who don't agree: "If any of them are ever in my company. I'll definitely attack them."

The film was an unholy mess, and bombed in the UK and the US. Jonny Lee Miller jumped straight across the Atlantic and into the cast of Hackers, an undistinguished teen thriller about computer espionage. Kelly MacDonald strapped herself into regulation corsetry for starry, USbacked costume dramas such as Elizobeth. She spent last year in New York filming Entropy, a romance in which the male lead is played by - of all people - U2's Bono. Carlyle, conversely, went back to Glasgow to learn how to drive a bus for his role in Ken Loach's Carla's Song. He has yet to make

a film on American soil. Carlyle was born in 1961 in the Maryhill district of Glasgow. His mother, Elizabeth, walked out of the family home when them, rejecting the Hollywood offers that he was a toddler, leaving his father -Joseph, a painter and decorator - to bring His unwillingness to jump aboard the him up alone. In the Seventies, father and

son lived a peripatetic life with a travelling hippie commune. Carlyle has hinted that his teen years were traumatic ("I went fuckin' mad," as he puts it). He left school at 16 and followed his father into the decorating trade. He didn't stay long.

For his 21st birthday he was given some book tokens, and used part of the money to buy a copy of The Crucible for 75p. It ignited an interest in theatre that resulted in his auditioning for the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama in 1983. He got in, hated it, and stuck it out for three years. It took four years, he says, for him to unlearn what they taught him. In 1991. he and four other actors formed Raindog, an experimental theatre co-operative named after a Tom Waits song. That same vear. Ken Loach cast him as a labourer in his film Riff Raff, and Carlyle suddenly found himself at the Cannes film festival. chatting at the bar with Dennis Hopper. It

Since Hamish Macbeth made him a household name, Carlyle has been intensely suspicious of the press, and with some good reason. The Scottish tabloids picked over the details of his breakup with a long-standing girlfriend, Caroline Paterson (who plays Ruth in EastEnders). and printed paparazzi-style photos of him with Anastasia Shirley, a make-up artist who became his wife in December 1997. When the couple married, at the stroke of midnight in Skibo Castle. Sutherland con loan to them from the millionaire Peter de Savary), persistent hacks attempted to infiltrate the ceremony by persuading the presiding minister that they were "old friends of Bobby's" from Glasgow.

But the unkindest cut came in April 1995, when the Sunday Mirror ran a double-page interview with his estranged mother. whom he hadn't seen since 1965. "I regard her as having died," he was alleged to have said. From this point, his reticence in the presence of reporters hardened into outright aggression, and he began to voice a violent distaste for the PR duties entailed by his film career. "They make it up there's not even 2 per cent of truth in all of it," he once raged. "I didn't even know what she looked like, and then these bastards dug her up. Imagine what that does to you. I know it's part of the job these days. but it's a fuckin' dirty part."

The canonisation that followed his success in The Full Monty has, if anything. caused these intrusions to abate. But his hostility towards the media remains intense. These days, even when asked the blandest questions about his work, his responses are often prickly and confrontational Richard Jobson, interviewing him for Esquire, noted: "Carlyle has this affable quality where he will say hello as soon as he sees you and will smile and with certainty say "great, let's get together when this scene is over'. But behind the eyes there is a look which kind of suggests he wishes you would piss off back to wherever you came from."



Robert Carlyle's relationship with the media remains hostile and confrontational

And it may be his disinclination to schmooze that has made Carlyle so phenomenally well-liked by cinema audiences. a notion that flies in the face of current PR orthodoxy. There's also his liking for movies with something to say, a predilection that has enhanced his reputation for integrity: "Usually the most important thing for me is finding a script that contains something of social worth." he has said. "If it's got something to say, if it can educate in some way, and if it speaks to me off the page, then that's a good gauge for me." The element of class war that underlies his larky highwayman picture Plunkett & Macleane has even allowed him to squeeze this simple-minded adventure into that particular category.

But sometimes he seems satisfied with social relevancy that's cosmetic or illconceived. In Antonia Bird's Face, we were asked to believe in Carlyle as Ray, a socialist activist who'd lost his ideals and somehow wound up as a cock-a-knee gangster of the sub-Minder variety. It was a painfully thin notion made all the more ludicrous by the presence of a poster for Ken Loach's Land and Freedom on Ray's bedroom wall.

Politically, Carlyle is disillusioned. A from the party's election defeat in 1992, he a hawk trained to gouge out the eyes of his

is suspicious of the man who gave him his OBE. Even so, he certainly won't be following the example of his fellow Trainspotting alumnus and Loach-acolyte Peter Mullan, who recently costed up with the Scottish Socialist Party. Carlyle may deflect journalists' questions about devolution, but he takes his Scottishness seriously enough to remain resident in Glasgow, and to have turned down roles in cod-Caledonian epics such as Rob Roy and Braveheart.

But how long can he hold out against Hollywood? He's rumoured to have pocketed film for his role as Renard, the assassin-villain of The World is Not Enough, and the offers will only multiply once the film has been released internationally. The film's connection with the world's favourite Scot Nat, Sean Connery. might reassure Cartyle, should he wake up in the middle of the night worrying about the "social worth" of a film as brazenly empty-headed as an 007 actioner.

But his role promises to be out-and-out camp of a sort with which, in the past, he has been uncomfortable about associating himself. Renard the assassin is a former French Foreign Legion officer with a bullet that has lodged in his brain and makes him insensitive to pain. In a twist Labour voter who never quite recovered on Blofeld's fluffy cat, the character carries

enemies. Carlyle acts opposite Sophie Marceau (who appeared as Princess Isabelle in Braveheart), and his fellow Scot Robbie Coltrane. With John Cleese also a member of the cast, and a plot that's rumoured to involve the blowing up of the Millennium Dome, it's hard to imagine how Carlyle will avoid compromising his reputation as a purveyor of down-to-earth and thoughtful performances.

Recently, the UK has produced a healthy quota of world-class leading men. but they tend to be soppy posh boys (the Fiennes brothers, Hugh Grant, Daniel Day-Lewis) or craggy character players (Pete Postlethwaite, Ian McKellen, Ray Winstone). Those who comprise our less regular output of working-class heroes Ewan McGregor and Gary Oldman, for instance) have succumbed to the lure of the LA lifestyle and big-budget, dumb-ass movies with embarrassing enthusiasm.

At the moment, however, it's difficult to imagine Robert Carlyle following Oldman's example of moving to Beverly Hills. marrying and divorcing Uma Thurman, and throwing pool parties staffed by legions of strippers. As long as it stays that way, British audiences, critics - and indeed the Prime Minister - will continue to think highly of him.

MATTHEW SWEET

THERE IS a long and honourable tradition of eccentric minor characters in a sitcom becoming popular in their own right. Sometimes, in the accepted parlance, they "spin off" into their own shows. Dr Frasier Crane was originally introduced into the Eighties sitcom Cheers to give Ted Danson's Boston barman some competition in his will they/ won't they romance with Shelley Long's barmaid Fifteen years later. Frasier is the most popular sitcom on American television. Ted Danson's and Shelley Long's careers have long since stalled.

There are many such examples, but Cosmo Kramer is not going to be one of them. Michael Richards. who played Jerry Seinfeld's wildeyed neighbour since the show's in-

ception in 1990, has not only turned his back on his Seinfeld character; he has also, apparently shorn off the trademark shock of hair (admittedly for a TV role; he's been playing Mr Micawber in a new production of David Copperfield).

Mind you, he can afford to. Since a pay hike in 1997, Richards, along with his co-stars Jason Alexander (George) and Julia Louis-Drevius (Elaine), has been earning \$600,000 an episode. They make 21 episodes

a year. You do the maths. So how did a minor character. Jerry's gangly, ungainly neighbour with his Hawaiian shirts, mad hair and habit of sliding into Jerry's flat unannounced (Richards apparently perfected that sliding entrance while he was still at school) become such Samaritan law that requires on. It was their recognisably comproting recklessly involved in madeap

ACCIDENTAL HEROES OF THE 20TH CENTURY

34: COSMO KRAMER, TV CHARACTER

perhaps, but a genuinely popular one in the States.

Sky television recently showed the final double episode of Seinfeld for British viewers (Americans saw it last year). If you don't want to know what happens, look away now. I said now. Jerry, George, Elaine and Kramer end up in prison, having been charged under a state "good

a hero? A cult hero in this country, lookers to help out if they see a crime being committed. The joke is on Jerry, George and Elaine, whose unsympathetic characters were such

> sitcom "about nothing". Vain, selfish and greedy, endlessly negotiating their self-absorbed way round the Manhattan rat run, they encapsulated so many of the "qualities" of modern, urban life.

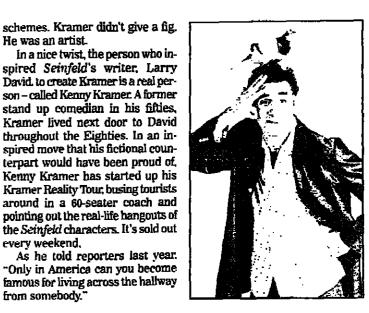
mised characters that struck such schemes. Kramer didn't give a fig. a chord with millions of viewers. It He was an artist. was funny that they were such unpleasant people. We are all, mostly. in our own little ways, unpleasant people. Not such pitiful characters as George, hopefully, but then by their transgressions we could forgive our own lesser weaknesses.

It was titting that they should eventually end up in prison. But not Kramer, Cosmo Kramer was never of their ilk Where they were cynical, he was a ground-breaking feature of this

endlessly optimistic. While the other characters were neurotic to the core. Kramer was at ease with his lot. Where the others were endlessly plotting their smallest move in the Manhattan jungle. Kramer was getIn a nice twist, the person who in-

spired Seinfeld's writer, Larry David to create Kramer is a real person - called Kenny Kramer. A former stand up comedian in his fifties, Kramer lived next door to David throughout the Eighties. In an inspired move that his fictional counterpart would have been proud of, Kenny Kramer has started up his Kramer Reality Tour, busing tourists around in a 60-seater coach and pointing out the real-life hangouts of

every weekend. As he told reporters last year. "Only in America can you become famous for living across the hallway



THE WEEKLY MUSE By MARTIN NEWELL

This mistlethrush upon the bough Will sing as sweet and doesn't know It must be deaf and blind somehow As the tide ebbs out of Kosovo A dreadful sombre laval flow We hold our children tighter now

With Christ-like pose and hands outstretched Stigmata holes? Nah. Too far-fetched It's David Beckham's Easter Look You've said the prayers. Now read the book. All former sins absolved no doubt. Front page? What taste. Well done Time Out

Big libel case. Went to appeal You must remember Morris/Steel? The pair McDonald's took to court And "beat" (or something of that sort) The final score the other day, Dropped sixty k to forty k McJudges trimmed damages back And ruled the risk of heart-attack As something that is "very real". Still sure you want that double meal?

Now one-in-five are overweight Like trains we carry too much freight The reason for this sorry mess? We're "victims of our own success" As Thameslink PR chaps might say. We sit in cars, eat snacks all day Watch vids and guzzle beer all night It's sure to make our waistbands tight. The simple answer to this bind. Is fall in love. Leave fat behind When Love struts in to ruin your day You'll watch that ballast fall away.

Computerised as of this week, I'm so put-out I cannot speak. And most of you won't care perhaps But men who still sport old cloth caps Like anglers, gardeners and other chaps, We'll miss those hand-drawn weather maps

So new research proves Beatles wrong And money can, despite the song Buy love, a headline claimed this week. A prospect which is rather bleak; For any hard-up singleton Who'd like to feel love should be won. So ladies, if you're feeling moony Call the team at Essex Uni It's their research you've got to thank After you have phoned your bank Cheques to "Newell" Er... leave them blank.

DAYS LIKE THESE

3 APRIL 1867

WILLIAM ALLINGHAM, friend of Alfred Tennyson, describes in his journal a visit to the Poet Laureate on the Isle of Wight:

'After dinner Tennyson concocts an experimental punch with whisky and claret - not successful. Talks of publishers, anon of higher things. He said, "I feel myself to be a centre - can't believe I shall die. Sometimes I have doubts, of a morning. Time and Space appear thus by reason of our boundedness." We spoke of Swedenborg, animals, etc., all with the friendliest sympathy and mutual understanding. T is the most delightful man in the world to converse with, even when he disagrees. To my inn, where I woke in the dark, bitten, and improvised two lines: Who in a country inn lies ill at ease! On fozy feathers fill's with furious fleas."

5 APRIL 1919

REV ANDREW CLARK, an English country vicar, notes in his diary:

"All prisoners-of-war, except those who were in the very south of Germany, pass through Denmark on their way to England. When it was known that these prisoners were to pass through, a Danish committee was formed and the Danes were able to send gifts for the men. When the prisoners got to Copenhagen, they were treated right royally by the Danes, especially the British Tommies. Many of the men had no desire to be repatriated. Several of them took off their uniform and settled down in Denmark. 60,000 Frenchmen have asked that they may not be repatriated. The French officials are in great dismay at this, because they have published bitter reports as to the ill-treatment of their men, and they do not know how to tell the public."

E APRIL 1943

DENTON WELCH. novelist, writes in his journal:

"The night before last, I sat in Hadlow churchyard on the memorial to the 30 hop-pickers drowned at Hartlake Bridge in 1853. Some of their Irish names had crumbled away, but others I could read: Donohue, Murphy, Clare. Their ages were inscribed too. Some were 19, 23, 52, four. I thought of them all, swept along with the bridge, floating on the surface of the water. Just 90 years ago those young ones turned up their eyes. And all their dirt, their thoughts, their joys, were washed away. The hops have been picked for 90 summers, and nobody thinks of the 30 bodies in the churchyard fished up out of the water."

WITNESS SERBS IN BRITAIN

When the truth is too painful to believe

- set up camp in Whitehall, opposite Downing Street, hours after the first bombs rained down on Yugoslavia. A couple of hundred noisy Serbian protesters now gather daily, with numbers expected to swell today when busloads of Serbs converge on London from communities all over Britain.

It is a little like a party, this roundthe clock protest. The Dunkirk spirit reported to be buoying up Belgrade has also gripped these emigrés, who once again Serbs are being o sport the same target stickers being defiantly worn in the Yugoslav capital.

Standing in the dark on Thursday night, bathed in lamp light, they sang patriotic songs from World War 11, and blew football whistles, in deafening unity, at passing traffic. A white stretch limo, which slowed down to sound its horn, was rewarded with the wildest cheers and a mass fluttering of Serbian flags. Even the middle-aged protester tucking into a pound box of Milk Tray stopped munching long enough to wave. Everyone just assumed the driver supported British Serbs' demands that Nato stop its bombing.

In Yugoslavia, Nato strikes have smothered the remaining opposition to President Milosevic. In Britain a similar process is under way. Two weeks ago London's Serb community was bitterly divided over Milosevic's rule and Serbian responsibility for the long, bloody list of atrocities that have accompanied the break-up of Yugoslavia. But Tomahawk cruise missiles have obliterated divisions, and sucked everyone back into one big albeit dysfunctional – Serb family.

On the eve of the Nato bombing campaign, Avram Balabanovic, one of the Serbian community's rare internal critics, was preparing for a public debate with Misha Gavrilovic, the former Serbian community spokesman who lost his post last year for being "too pro-Milosevic". The event was cancelled when the bombing started. hind the same protest barrier.

While they are not exactly holding hands, they have temporarily put aside their differences. "The bombing has been an unwanted unifying force," admits Mr Balabanovic, who is struggling to get his elderly mother out of Belgrade and, like most Serbs, is up half the night trying to get through to Yugoslavia to check on family and friends. "This is not a time for oppos-

THE VANGUARD - seven British Serbs ition," he says. "That would be misunderstood. And anyway I am against the bombings. Milosevic will only fall from within, and Nato's bombs have silenced the opposition."

The West's tactics have left him a bitter man, and have stalled his campaign to persuade his community to take up meaningful self-examination. "If they had given the money for one Tomahawk to opposition parties, Milo-

Once again Serbs are being denounced in the British papers as Nazis and murderous "ethnic cleansers". It is the British government's conviction that if the Serbs of Belgrade, who mostly rely on the state-controlled media, could see the misery of the "ethnic cleansing" in Kosovo and hear the allegations of murder, rape and political executions, scales would fall from eyes, support for Milosevic would wither, and the justness of Nato's cause would be recognised.

But as Dajan Djokic, a Serbian historian teaching in London, points out. Britain's Serbian community see the pictures of suffering Albanians everyday and they still blame Nato. not Milosevic, for the war. That conviction is shared by all British Serbs. On the protest line this week many were insisting that the "ethnic cleansing" being shown on television is all lies.

To make sense of that, you have to understand the community's intense feeling of beleaguerment. Two months ago I spent several weeks interviewing British Serbs about about their descent from lauded wartime British allies into the bogeymen of Europe. It was a delicate task. People were reluctant to talk or be photographed. At the very least, Serbs distrust the media. Many simply loathe them, insisting that vilification of the Serbs has made their children ashamed of their heritage. A blind, defensive loyalty to the homeland prevails, even among those who hate Milosevic or have not As a thankyou to those who did help,

I agreed to "defend" the resulting magazine article at a public meeting. I expected a handful of Serbs to turn up to discuss an innocuous piece. The small hall was full and critical, and the tension palpable. Although some were grateful for a presentation of Serbs as people, not monsters, others clearly felt that no outsider was entitled to comment. The most hostile were



Marijana Marjanovic, 18, is a Serb who fied Croatia with her parents five years ago

those who had not read the feature. With all the lies and poison about Serbs in the media, they said, they already knew they would hate it.

From the body of the hall, Mr Gavrilovic peddled soothing theories of an international media conspiracy against innocent Serbs, and upheld the comforting image - dating back two world wars - of the Serbs as victims. not aggressors. Mr Balabanovic countered by warning people not to indulge in self-deception and the abdication of responsibility. Mr Gavrilovic was by far the more popular speaker.

After the Nato bombings, even more people were gravitating towards Mr Gavrilovic's position. At the Whitehall demo they queued up to argue that it is British Serbs, not their relatives in Belgrade, who are being fed lies.

"Everything they tell you about Serbs is a lie," said one of the protest stewards, angry that his daughter is coming home from school in tears after taunts from classmates that gether on this issue." "Nato will get you". The steward insists that "ethnic cleansing" is not taking place in Kosovo. He also believes brenica in 1995 never happened.

To believe that the television news is lying necessitates the belief that Serbia is the object of a huge and complex conspiracy. But even liberal and rational Serbs, like Vesna Petkovic, aged 44, a bookseller, are prepared to believe, this time, that the British media are not giving a balanced view. The Albanians, she insists, are simply

She says that the war, and the British press's likening of Serbs to Nazis, have left her daughter, aged 11 raised to be proud of her Serbian heritage - "hysterical". The girl is terrified that her father, currently in Belgrade, will be killed. Ms Petkovic is taking her to Portugal next week to

escape the unrelenting war coverage. The Whitehall protests are galvanising even the young and previously apolitical. And the conviction that the Nato action is immoral is finally convincing some that the Serbs are not villains, but the Balkans' unrecognised victims.

Marijana Marjanovic, aged 18, had no interest in politics in January. This week she was on the protest line. Her father has been there every day and her Croatian mother - who she says is, if anything, more upset than her father - has also protested. "I just can't believe the bombing is happening." she says. "But everyone is to-

Many are incredulous that it is Besford, a writer, came to Britain from with English culture. For her the bombing is a terrible betrayal. "I am not for Milosevic but my sympathies are with the Serbian people," she says. She distrusts the media on the basis that Serbs cannot possibly be as demonic as always portrayed.

"Serbs are partly to blame but not 99.9 per cent," she says. How, she asks, can we be sure that the sinister men running from the Nato bombardment. in masks hounding Albanians from

their homes are not members of the Kosovo Liberation Army, forcing their own people on to the roads to make the Serbs look bad?

Mr Balabanovic does not go in for such imaginative interpretations. He does not doubt that "ethnic cleansing" is under way. But it would be folly to argue the toss with his fellow protesters. Have British Serbs, rallied around the one issue of the bombardment, any sympathy for Kosovo's suffering and dispossessed? Some say they have. Other hearts seem hard. Where was the sympathy, asks the steward, when 200,000 Serbs were forced out of Krajina in Croatia? "Sometimes media coverage would make you think Serbs did not have women and children," he says.

Perhaps it's hard to be generous when those at home are under fire. Even Mr Djokic, generally the most impartial of academics, says it is hard to hold on to objectivity when bombs fall on the homeland. He has spent the last 10 days glued to the television set Britain bombing Serbia. Sonia or struggling to get a line to Yugoslavia, where his mother is unable to take гепиде из спе ва cannot get her 88-year-old disabled father downstairs.

"The bombing is bad enough," he says. "It is counter-productive. But my real worry is what will follow. Milosevic will emerge stronger and an already weak economy will be destroyed. I worry the Serbs will be left with Milosevic for ever more. That will be the real tragedy."

MARY BRAID

THE WEASEL

In which I leaf through some of the world's hippest hotels, try to answer some extremely stupid questions and make a total April Fool of myself

IN PRINCIPLE, I love the sybaritic decadence of hotel life - the arousing click of high heels on a marble floor - but too often the reality turns out to be somewhat different. The worst meal I ever endured was in a hotel (Scarborough), as were the noisiest night (Venice), the thinnest mattress (Barcelona), the grubbiest sheets (Athens) and the greatest number of mosquito bites (Antigua). Still, I suppose they had the merit of being memorable. These days, most British hotels are bland machines for transmuting sachets of Nescafe, microscopic bars of soap and pallid prints into a torrent of dosh.

Hip Hotels: City (Thames & Hudson, £18.95), a new photo-book by the euphoniously-named Herbert Ypma, is devoted to 30-odd hotels that can "turn a boring business jaunt into a stylish and stimulating experience". I suppose this is his way of hinting that you require an expense account to stay in them. One of the four London hotels he singles out is the Hempel trooms from £175 per night, suites from £350), modestly titled after its designer-owner, Anouska Hempel, otherwise Lady Weinberg.
"You'll have to take us as you find

us," says Lady W, her cheeks lightly dusted with flour after a dumplingmaking session. Somehow, she manages to squeeze yet another ornament on to a cluttered mantelpiece. "The place is in a bit of a two-and-eight, but as long as you're comfy, that's the main thing." Ah, if only... In fact, the Hempel looks so white and pure that only ghosts could stay there without leaving a blemish, while the proprietrix is described as "bordering on the fanatical in her attention to detail". Even the pale-leather-bound

fully arranged in a pyramid. What happens if you move one? Another of Mr Ypma's selections, an arty joint in Basel called Der Teufelhof, prevents guests succumbing to this temptation by cementing the books on to the library shelves

Not every hip hostelry aims for such Zen-like minimalism. An Amsterdam hotel named Seven One Seven is cluttered with "African masks and

classical torsos, books and walking-sticks, Murano glass and cast-iron urns exactly the eclectic, unpredictable mix that might be found in an old English country house". I wonder whether the owner. Kees van der Valk (a perfect name for a Dutch hotelier), got the idea from Evelyn Waugh's description of Shepheard's Hotel in Vile Bodies: "Inside it is like a country house... croquet mallets and polo sticks in the bathroom... and an archery target, a bicycle and one of those walkingsticks which turn into

saws..." It is to be hoped, however, that Seven One Seven does not imitate Shepheard's in having ladies of the night swinging fatally on chandeliers. The antiquated notion of service has been junked at some hip hotels. Since there is no lobby at the Pelican, Miami Beach, you have to lug your suitcases through the restaurant. "A few days later, when you see another pasty newcomer undergo the same ini-

tiation, it suddenly feels like an in-

joke," chortles Mr Ypma. "According

to the hotel, dragging your bags

volumes in the hotel library are care- through the restaurant helps break down 'traditional expectations'." Oddly enough, the Pelican maintains the tradition that its guests should lash out \$160 per night for the privilege of staying there.

The louche Phoenix in San Francisco has dispensed with the idea that hotels should be places of peace and tranquillity. Mr Ypma notes that this gaudy lodging has "earned quite a name as the bad boy of Frisco hotels".



He adds that neighbouring rooms may be occupied by the Beastie Boys, Hoodoo Gurus, Sonic Youth. "Guests can make a lot of noise and their roadies won't have to worry about where to park the rig." Irresistible.

Those of a literary disposition may prefer another San Francisco establishment called the Hotel Rex. "It feels like a hotel for writers and that was exactly what was intended." Instead of in a restaurant, meals are served in the library. In one of Mr Ypma's photos you can read a title

given pride of place in this bookish den: James Herriott's Yorkshire. Well, you can't get hipper than that.

TT'S QUITE painless and will take only half an hour," said the desperatelooking market researcher, so I relented. At first, I quite enjoyed the experience, since the questions that appeared on his lap-top concerned my deepest love (with the possible ex-

ception of Mrs W): gastronomy. Unfortunately, things went awry when he asked me what I'd last eaten in a restaurant "Poulet noir with polenta," I replied. "Is that a sauce?" he asked. before presenting me with a very long list of possible accompaniments: Which of these did you have as well: chips, peas, onion rings, tomato ketchup...?

The next set of questions, about how often I ate in McDonald's, Pizza Hut, Little Chef, etc, was rapidly disposed of, since

the only chain that I ever visit is Pizza Express. What kind of food did I eat there? "Hm, that's a tough one." I was equally astringent regarding his en-quiry about which savoury snacks I bought. "To tell you the truth, I am not a frequent purchaser of Doritos."

Unabashed by my tartness, he plumbed my knowledge of car-tyre brands. As a man of the world, I assured him that I was familiar with Michelin, Pirelli and Firestone. Another sudden switch took us to the world of finance and my views on the

euro. Finally, he taxed me on a further burning issue of the day: athlete's foot. "Yes, I have suffered," I blurted out, snuffling back a tear, "but Mycota powder was my salvation."

When he departed, I contacted one of my cronies who works in market research, for an explanation of these weird non-sequiturs. Cackling at my perplexity, he explained that "omnibus surveying" is commonplace. It enables a number of disparate companies to query customers at modest cost. Of course, the notion of reimbursing interviewees for the halfhour they give up to enhance the bottom line of Doritos or Pizza Hut is quite out of the question.

WE'RE UP at Weasei Villas North, on the Yorkshire coast, for Easter and there seems to be change and upheaval all around. Filey's seafront is being ripped apart by mechanical diggers. Hard-hats mingle with paddlers, while the arm of a vast crane swings out perilously over the beach. As we drove over to Scarborough seafront last Thursday, Mrs Weasel revealed that more disruption was about to happen here. "Take a good look," she said. "It's the last time you'll be able to see it like that." "Why?"

"The local paper says the harbour lighthouse is being dismantled and moved to a nautical museum in Portsmouth."

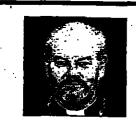
"What!"

"Yes, it was the lead story this morning..." She hesitated for a moment, as realisation dawned, ...but you know what today is."

Across the harbour, the lighthouse stood unmoved.

THE SATURDAY ESSAY

Pronounced dead, but ' faith has risen once again



RICHARD **CHARTRES**

The resurgence of religion has come as a shock to those whose world view was formed in the Sixties and Seventies

HE WAS crucified, dead and buried, but on the third day he rose again. In a similar way religion has been pronounced dead so many times in the 20th century that the global resurgence of religion, as the millennium approaches, has come as a profound shock to those whose world view was formed in the Sixties and Seventies.

Just 20 years ago the idea that secularisation would follow the material and technological achievements of modern man seemed obvious. It was widely believed that religion would be relegated to the infantile phase of the human race that had now "come of age". In the East, Lenin, who had declared all religion to be "moonshine", slept secure in his tomb as a kind of materialist icon. His ideas were also common currency, in a less systematic form, in the West.

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Even 10 years ago, after the fall of the Berlin Wall, it seemed that the new world order would be based on a faith that had little use for God, and which Ernest Gellner named "Consumer Unbeliever

International". Now things look very different, though some parts of white Western Europe are in denial. As the corpse in the mausoleum in Red Square looks ever more decrepit. attention is once again on the energies that

flow from the empty tomb. Reports from Indonesia, the Indian same story about the growing saliency of religion in countries with very different religious traditions. Religion is often a component in conflict in these areas, but religious institutions have also proved able to mobilise the energies of populations beyond the reach of the old Westernised elites in the process of democratising public life.

minds. I saw atheist certainty disintegrate over two decades in successive visits to the Museum of Atheism in St Petersburg. In the Seventies, the faith that informed the museum was crude and simple. There were displays of monkish instruments of 11 123 355 torture, as if the Lubyanka had not made spectacular advances in this field. There were photographs of religious leaders, such as the saintly Michael Ramsey, which made them look deranged. Over the years, however, the exhibition became more sophisticated and tried to present a picture history in which religion had its place in the evolutionary scheme but had been made redundant with the dawn of scien-

> I was also present when the museum was closed down and the remains of St Seraphim of Sarov, the most beloved saint of 19th-century Russia, were discovered in the basement. The saint was resurrected from the tomb of the Museum of Atheism amid scenes of indescribable enthusiasm.

> The global resurgence of religion stems in part from the attempt of post-colonial societies in Asia and Africa to liberate themselves culturally and to indigenise the process of modernisation. In other parts of the world, however, it is also connected with a renewed search for personal identity that has accompanied the decline of romantic nationalism.

> Much of the 20th century has been domted by the attempt of secular messianic lions have been sacrificed in the wars fomented by Communism and Nazism. These were movements which, despite superficial differences, sought to deify



Russian Orthodox worshippers celebrating Easter in Vladimir Cathedral, Kiev, Ukraine

the state and consequently both persecuted religious believers and institutions.

Whatever the complex reasons for the resurgence of religion, it is now an inescapable geopolitical fact, for good or ill. In Britain, churches are often relegated to the leisure and entertainments section of seaside resort brochures but the tendency to edit religion out of grown-up Anglo-American discourse can have serious ences. It seems obvious that US monitoring of Iranian politics should always have included the religious dimension, but, as a survey from the Washington-based Centre for Strategic and International Studies has revealed, "the one recorded attempt to do just that within the CIA, before the revolution, was vetoed on the grounds that it would amount to mere sociology, a term used in intelligence circles to mean the time-wasting study of factors deemed politically irrelevant."

The US is changing its attitudes, and the passage last year by Congress of the Freedom from Religious Persecution Act has made religious freedom a diplomatic issue. In addition it signals a reassessment of the future significance of the role of religious convictions and institutions in international relations.

It is always hard, of course, to convince yesterday's avant garde that they have been overtaken by change. It is disappointing that in the events leading up to the Nato action against Serbia the potential of the faith communities to contribute to a peaceful settlement has hardly been explored. The Serbian Orthodox Church has not been a dull echo of the Milosevic regime. In a letter to Madeleine Albright last month, Bishop Artemije of the Orthodox Peace Mission in Kosovo predicted that "Nato intervention would strengthen the Milosevic regime" and "would delay the necessary democratisation of Serbia, a precondition for a stable peace in the Balkan region. In the aftermath of a Nato intervention... it is certain that the Milosevic regime would take decisive and drastic action against its dom-

estic opponents." Since much of the passion in the Kosovo conflict is generated by the manipulation of what Fr Sava, a leading peace campaigner of the Decani Monastery in western Kosovo, describes as "romantic myths" about history and religion, the potential of religious leaders to out-narrate the bigots should not be ignored. The cooperation of Muslim and Christian institutions throughout the region in seeking to assist the refugees is one of the few signs

The potential and the hope are frequently ignored by members of the Anglo-American elite, who, far from being genuinely pluralist in their attitudes, believe that the secularisation thesis is true and have built their view of the world and constructed its institutions on this dogma.

This is the context for the current debate about the relations between religion and society in Britain. Recognition is slowly dawning that the religious question cannot be edited out, and indeed for the first time since the middle of the 19th century a question about religious affiliations is to be included in the next census.

Part of the reason for this renewal of interest is that many of Britain's new citizens from ethnic minorities identify themselves by reference to religion rather than race. Muslims in particular welcome a development that recognises their religious identity. Tariq Modood, professor of sociology at Bristol University, predicts that this shift will have an impact on public life: "As the fundamental interpretative horizons of the citizenry expand through the immigration of religious peoples, so too the political identity of the regime is inevitably altered." This is clearly causing tension in a country such as France, where religion has been expelled from the public realm altogether and there are constant disputes about issues such as the wearing of head-

scarves by Muslim girls in state schools. By an accident of history, England and Scotland both continue to have an Established Christian Church that guarantees a presence for religion in public life. Neither, however, is a state Church of the kind familiar from Scandinavia, where the Church also enjoys considerable financial support through the tax system. The Church of Scotland has always jealously guarded its independence, while despite the theatre of Establishment the Church of England is supported almost entirely by voluntary contributions. Despite having the care of more than a third of all the grade I listed buildings in the country and a large part of the artistic and cultural inheritance of the English people, the Church of England receives less in grants from public funds than the faithful contribute to the Treasury in VAT payments on repairs to historic buildings.

The Establishment is usually attacked by caricaturing its reality. No serious person has believed since the middle of the last century that the Church of England should have a religious monopoly. In places such as France, where a religious monopoly was at one time achieved, the effect was to ally the Church with the status quo and eventually to convert one side of the French political divide to the proposition that religion ought to be resolutely excluded from public life.

In Britain there was always a Christian opposition that brought together Roman Catholics and Protestant Nonconformists with elements in the Church of England in a succession of campaigns for social and economic change. This goes a long way to explain the continued partnership with religious bodies in areas of public life such as education, and the relative lack of controversy about religion as such in British politics. Now the religious presence in public life is being further pluralised as Muslim schools follow Jewish schools in achieving voluntary-aided status.

The Establishment of the Church of England is part of the mosaic that connects religion and society in Britain in various ways. The aim in the continuing process of change in the relation of religion and society should be to pluralise the religious presence in public life further, while resisting its privatisation. Those who believe the secularisation thesis is literally true are of course trying to privatise religion, but it would be dangerous to attempt to drive

faith communities into a cultural ghetto. Genuine pluralism allows a place for religion in public life, and this creates a context for politics that inhibits the growth of any kind of secular messianic state. It is the deified state that has been the great engine of misery in the 20th century.

At the same time, exposing the world views of religious people to public debate is some safeguard against the growth of privatised fanaticism. There is a real danger of the growth of such fanaticism if religion is exiled to some ghetto of piety where words of fire can be spoken among consenting adults. I have no fear that religion will disappear in the next millennium but I do fear religious fascism. The need to develop allianc's with people from all traditions who believe in the way of dialogue has never been more urgent.

The Church of England has a particular responsibility for developing the relations between faith communities and the institutions of public life. The Church has been pressing for many years for ex-

Sergei Supinsky/EPA panding religious representation in the House of Lords and the Royal Commission gives an opportunity to ventilate the

question again. At the same time it is evident that bishops of the Church of England are widely perceived as figures capable of representing regions and bodies of opinion well beyond what may be regarded as the sectional interests of the Anglican Church. The Economist, the house magazine of Consumer Unbeliever International, last month recorded that campaigners for regional assemblies in the North-east and the West Midlands had approached the bishops of Durham and Aston to take the chair of the two newly formed lobby organisations. At the same time the Bishop of St Germans was on the front page of the Western Daily News as leading a coalition

against rural poverty in Cornwall. Representative figures are vital for social cohesion and, if the new House of Lords is to reflect a Britain of regions, then, quite apart from their contribution on educational and social topics, the bishops will have a role to play.

Occasionally attempts are made to suggest that religious leaders speak for a dwindling constituency. Of course, it is true that every mass membership organisation is having difficulty in competing with the entertainment industry. This is the context for the astonishing fact that the Anglican Churches alone in the Greater London region assemble more than 100,000 citizens every week for constructive purposes. The situation is even more marked in inner-city areas where the faith communities, churches, temples and mosques are left as the only organisations with pathways into the community as a whole.

There is, of course, great religious volatility and some disenchantment with established structures, but a visit to any high-street book shop and a glance at the Mind. Body and Spirit section suggests that when people drift away from the traditional religious structures the result is not a generation of sturdy atheists but vast numbers of people who will believe in anything. The challenge for the churches of England in these circumstances is to grow in a nonexclusive confidence in what we have received from the empty tomb and the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. "From such ground springs that which forever renews the earth, though it is forever denied."

The writer is the Bishop of London

BAROMETER

SEAN O'GRADY



Fancy a ride on the Big Dipper? Take care if you're handsome. The sexy supermodel Fabio could be scarred for life after being hit in the face by a lowflying goose as the rollercoaster ride he was on in the US hit maximum speed. Fancy being that good-looking and still getting smacked in the face by a fat bird at 73mph. Enough to give you goose-bumps.

Don't exert yourself Most of us will be spending the Easter break passively. According to something called the National Enjoyment Report, most Britons prefer to stay at home and watch television rather than go out with friends, or take any exercise. Sex, being a (mostly) active business. doesn't fare well either. Young people would rather go clubbing and only 38 per cent of British males rate sex highly. They prefer eating, drinking and

watching television. If only

Fabio had been a Brit.



power These French piglets, grazing in the shade Eiffel Tower, are protesting

prices which has forced many farmers out of business. But do they really want to become saucissons? Haven't they seen Babe? Allez, petits cochons.

Scouse git When Tony Blair married the **lovely Cherie** Booth on 28 March 1980 may have one day, his new actor father-in-law. Tony Booth, might turn out to be a bit of an embarrassment.

It has come to pass. The widower of Pat Phoenix 'The Street's Elsie Tanner), star of Till Death Us Do Part and co-star (with Robin Askwith: of Confessions of a Driving Instructor (1976) has had a rather wayward private life, retold charmingly in his autobiography, Stroll On. Since he's been for most of his life an out-of-control-freak, it was inevitable that Booth would call his goody-two-shoes son-in-law a "control freak" who is "throttling democracy" in the Labour Party. No doubt that's not the only thing Blair would like to throttle.

Image of the week I see the gorillas are out. Kwibi, four months old, and Djalta, 10 months, frolic among the spring daffodils at Howletts Wild Animal Park, Kent. They are being hand-reared by the keepers after their mother rejected them. How could she?





Sunday

Go to town to buy some make-up for the competition. I was runner-up in the Miss Cleveland regional contest last Thursday and have been entered into the Miss Great Britain Universe Pageant. I go to the gym and then have a sun-bed. I spend the evening making lists of all the things I need to get ready for the competition. I end up with three pages!

Make more lists, pack clothes, pick up a dress. I go to see my mum, who irons my evening dress. It's a very elegant black satin dress. I'm really excited about going to London, as I've never been before. I set off with my boyfriend Jonathan at about seven, and we stay with some

own pillows so I can get a good night's sleep but I am so excited I can't stop tossing and turning.

Tuesday The finals! Up at half seven, wash my hair, shave my legs. I wear smart clothes - a red fitted shirt and grey fitted trousers. The stage at the Hippodrome looks fantastic. I am

really excited. Am assigned a dress-

ing-room with Emma, the winner of

my regional final. Me and Emma sneak out to buy pizza and ice-cream. There's none of this stick-insect stuff for us. I never worry about my weight, I'm far too active with my dancing and going to the gym. Sometimes I eat healthily and sometimes I eat rubbish.

We practise the dance moves for Feeling champion: Nicki Lane friends in Putney. I've bought my the show, it's quite easy for me as

MY WEEK

NICKI LANE. MISS GREAT BRITAIN UNIVERSE

the front. It's a good start because the judges will notice me. I'm only worried about the section in the competition where I have to speak to the judges. When it comes to public

speaking I go to pot. The show starts off with a James Bond intro and then I walk out on to stage in my swimsuit while my measurements - 34-23-33 - are read out to the judges. Many of the other girls said they were professional models and I thought I wouldn't

I'm a dancer. They put me right at stand a chance. I'm not being bitchy, but some of them were quite short. I'm five foot nine.

When I'm asked about my hobbies and plans for the future I decide to take a different stand from the other girls. They say how much they love modelling. I talk about my dancing and my degree in physiotherapy, which I am starting in October. For me it's all fun, modelling isn't my life. My A-level work is more

important. When I find out that I have won

I am in complete shock. So is my ally falls over the balcony.

Wednesday

I sleep in and manage to miss my champagne breakfast. Then it's off to the Sound Republic club on Leicester Square. We are wined and dined while we discuss my trip to Trinidad for the world finals. I'm going in May, all expenses paid, and I'm to get £3,000 of designer clothes. I'm really excited but worried about fitting in my college work.

It's back to normal life: I go to college to catch up on some work. I don't worry about my hair and make up. I hate dressing up all the time. At my dance class everyone tells me

that I'm acting as if I'm not bothered. boyfriend; he stands up and practic- I am, but I'm not the sort of person to brag. I spend the afternoon relaxing with my boyfriend. We go for a picnic by the beach in Whitby. I have a nice bath when I get home and an early night.

Friday

I go to the gym for a two-hour session - I love sport but Γm not obsessional. I do some interviews for the local press. It's strange when you get noticed in the street. I don't really mention the contests to people unless they know about them.

In the evening I go to Club Millennium with my boyfriend. This week has gone by in a blur. I'm looking forward to seeing daylight, I've

spent so much time inside. INTERVIEW BY DAISY PRICE

Lee Atwood

NO SINGLE person did more to create aircraft for the Royal Air Force, as well as for the armed forces of the United States, than Lee Atwood, a leader of the United States aircraft industry for 50 years.

Early in the Second World War, in March 1940, the British Purchasing Commission in the US visited North American Aviation (NAA), which was already supplying Harvards to the RAF, and asked whether they would make Curtiss P-40 fighters under licence for them. The classic reply was: "We can build you a better airplane."

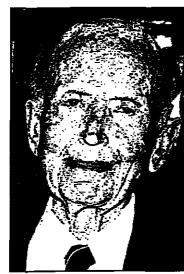
Within a few months Atwood, with his assistants Ray Rice and Ed Schmued, had designed the Mustang. It was first flown on 26 October 1940, and its most unusual feature was that the Allison engine was cooled by fluid pumped through a large radiator inside the rear fuselage. The radiator was in a profiled duct according to a scheme proposed in 1935 by the Englishman F.W. Meredith; instead of creating drag, the radiator put out hot air which

gave jet-propulsion thrust.
The British found the Mustang the best fighter in the United States, and placed an immediate order for 320. Its only shortcoming was that its performance deteriorated at high altitudes. Army Co-operation Command. which had previously been equipped with the Curtis P-40 and which flew chiefly at low altitudes, responded to them very favourably. In 1942 a Mustang was re-engined with the British Rolls-Royce Merlin made under licence by Packard at Detroit.

The result was what most consider the best fighter of the war. With the same engine, the Spitfire IX reached 405mph and the Mustang 437mph. Not only that, but it was the only fighter with the range to accompany bombers throughout Germany. Hermann Goering said: When I saw Mustangs over Berlin I knew the war was lost." Mustang production totalled 15,586 during the Second World War. Immediately after the war, Atwood and his colleagues designed the Twin Mustang - essentially two Mustangs riding on a single wing - which performed excellently in Korea.

John Leland Atwood was born in Walton, Kentucky, in 1904. In 1922 he studied at Wayland College, followed by Hardin-Simmons University before receiving a BS degree from the University of Texas. In 1928 he began work as a junior engineer at the Army Aircraft Branch at Wright Field, Ohio. In 1930 he landed the job of chief structures engineer at Douglas Aircraft, at Santa Monica, Los Angeles.

tors to bolster the technical strength of General Aviation at Dundalk. Maryland. At this very time the



When I saw Mustangs over Berlin,' said Goering, 'I knew the war was lost.' With the same engine, the Spitfire IX reached 405mph and the Mustang 437mph

dustry, and GA was forced to hive off. It called itself North American Aviation, and occupied a small plant at Mines Field, Inglewood. Over the next 10 years this field became LA International Airport, and NAA the most prolific producer of aircraft in the world, with Atwood vicepresident and chief engineer When it moved to Inglewood NAA

had just one order, from the US Army for 42 training aircraft called the BT-9. Under Atwood's direction this proliferated as the standard advanced trainer of the Allies in the Second World War, known to the US forces as the Texan and to the RAF as the Harvard. Most wartime pilots, including myself, trained on this aircraft, which even served Hitler's Luftwaffe (they used aircraft supplied to France in 1938-40) and was built under licence in Japan. The overall total was 21,342.

In 1938 Atwood began work on a far more powerful aircraft, the B-25 Mitchell bomber. The first time this by Ernest R. Breech of General Mo- when, to show the Japanese they could be bombed, the famed pilot Jimmy Doolittle led 16 off the deck of the carrier Hornet. Never in-1934 Air Mail Act disrupted the intended for such duty, these large

bombers had to line up on deck and make free takeoffs. Each just staggered into the air, but all 16 bombed Tokyo. Total production of the B-25 was 9,817, and they served on every front including the Soviet Union.

Immediately after the war, em-ployment at NAA quickly slumped from the 1944 peak of 91,700, but under Atwood's direction a succession of superior designs went into production. One was the Navy FJ-1, a jet fighter with a Mustang-derived wing. The US Air Force version was the XP-86 Sabre, but Atwood deliberately delayed this while the wings and tail were swept back in arrowhead fashion according to captured German data.

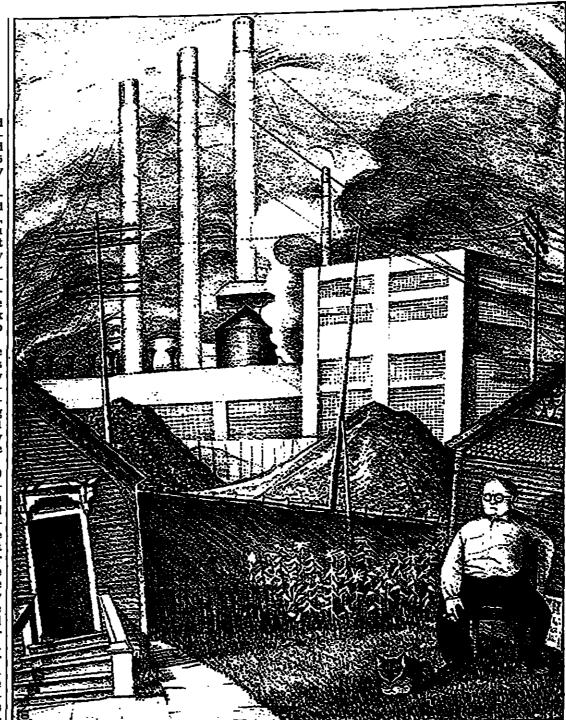
First flown on 1 October 1947, the Sabre soon set world speed records of 670mph, and in Korea was the only Allied jet able to take on the Russian MiG-15 which also had sweptback wings. The RAF had nothing in the same class until it got 431 Sabres made in Canada in the early 1950s. Total production of the Sabre

NAA followed with the F-100 Super Sabre, the first Western fighter able to fly faster than sound in level flight: 2,239 were delivered from 1953. Among other great aircraft came the RA-5C Vigilante, the heaviest and most powerful aircraft ever to operate from carriers (far surpassing the old B-25). At twice the speed of sound it could carry precise radar-mapping equipment. One day the Admirals carefully measured the image brought back of a baseball pitch taken from a slant range of over 30 miles. The size was not quite right. Later it was discovered the error was in the marking out of the pitch.

Even more remarkable was the X-15, a rocket-engined research aircraft which between 1959 and 1968 flew higher (314,750ft) and faster (4,520mph, Mach 6.7) than any other aircraft before or since. NAA became leader in giant missiles and rocket engines, and created the Apollo lunar module which took man to the Moon. In mergers in 1967 and 1973 the company became Rockwell International, and after Atwood's retirement became the prime contractor for the Space Shuttle:

Atwood became president of NAA in 1948, chief executive officer in 1960 and chairman in 1962, and retired in 1970, though remaining a consultant for another eight years. He received honours from many countries. In 1998, at the age of 93, he gave a warmly appreciated talk to an aviation society in Yorkshire.

John Leland Atwood, aeronautic October 1904: Vice-President and Chief Engineer, North American Aviation 1934-48, President 1948-70; married; died Santa Monica, California 5 March 1999.



'Workers unite!' Late Afternoon. Detroit, lithograph by Bloch

Lucienne Bloch

BORN IN Switzerland in 1909, living most of her long life in the United States, the artist Lucienne Bloch is best-known internationally for her friendship with a Mexican couple.

The first record of Lucienne is as a small child in her birthplace Geneva, photographed with her brother and sister by her father, the composer Ernst Bloch. Bloch was also a photographer and taught Lucienne how to develop photographs as a child. In 1917, Bloch sailed with his family across the Atlantic to take up years later became director of the Institute of Music in Cleveland and then, from 1925, of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. He had a somewhat tempestuous relationship with his wife, who after a few

years took her children back to Paris. Lucienne studied at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris, and spent a year making glass sculptures in Amsterdam. Returning once more to the United States, it was in 1931 that she both held a one-man show of her glass in New York and first met the formidable Mexican painters Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo.

In her diary, Bloch recalled that this was at a dinner in Rivera's honour in New York, where she was seated next to the great man, much to the irritation of the jealous Kahlo, whose first words to the bemused young Swiss woman were: "I hate you."

Soon though, Kahlo became satisfied that Bloch was not infatuated with her husband, and over the next few years, she became Kahlo's faithful companion, accompanying her protect Rivera M-" - at which point,

during the difficult loss of her child. and the death of her mother, and even travelled to Mexico with her. On one occasion, in August 1932, Bloch wrote in her diary: "We took cold chicken in a little basket and went to Belle Isle dragging Diego with us at the last instant. It did him good to go out. He was so surprised at the beauty of the trees when lying down in the grass. He says trees are ugly

and nature is hokum, but he can't

help admiring it when he's in it." Bloch herself was a talented fered her the post of sculpture director at his school in Wisconsin. But she was particularly impressed with the public murals that Diego Rivera was busily creating in Mexico and the United States, and instead became Rivera's assistant. She also fell in love with his chief plasterer, the Bulgarian Stephen Dimitroff.

She helped on Rivera's most controversial projects, at the Detroit Institute of Art, and on Man at the Crossroads, for the Rockefeller Center in New York. Nelson Rockefeller had commissioned the 1,000sqft work, but the Rockefeller family was horrified when it discovered that Rivera intended to make it a paean in praise of Communism, with Lenin as the great spiritual leader of mankind. Rivera was quickly paid off, and armed guards moved in while

the mural was covered with screens. Bloch attempted to defend it, even going so far as to scrawl on the whitewashed windows of the Rockefeller Center: "Workers unite! Help

she was dragged away. She returned itroff and Kahlo, and while Kahlo distracted the guards, Bloch climbed up on the scaffold and with her

continued to work as a muralist returned to Malawi to form his own and sculptor in glass and terracotta. She and Dimitroff married and became an artistic fresco team, he controversial issues. Me Nobody painting on around 50 projects | Eighties), the first he wrote on his reof Frida Kahlo were widely shown, but she also took photos for Life strict political and moral censorship magazine, again demonstrating her since the late 1960s. "Eventually I strong political convictions, as in the came up with Fragments, which series of striking carworkers in late | was an abstract piece which they 1930s. Dimitroff became a union organiser until the couple moved to California in the 1960s.

Towards the end of her life there was a renewed interest in Lucienne Bloch's work. The singer Madonna, researching for a film project about Frida Kahlo, talked with her at length and set up a fund to preserve the best of her murals, The Evolution of Music, in the George Washington High School in New York From 1965 Bloch lived in Gualala, California, and it was here that the first exhibition of her photographs of Frida Kahlo was recently held.

NICK CAISTOR

Lucienne Bloch, muralist: born Geneva 1909; married Stephen Dimitroff (died 1996; two sons, one daughter); died Gualala. California

Dunduza Chisiza

DUNDUZA CHISIZA was a playwright, director and actor who, in 1987, founded the first professional theatre company in Malawi, the Wakhumbata Ensemble Theatre. He wrote over 20 plays and was involved in the writing and directing of some 25 others, often playing the lead role himself.

Growing up in post-independence Malawi, Chisiza put his efforts as an artist behind the growing campaign for human rights and democracy in Dr Hastings Banda's one-party state. "As long as I find that there is something wrong, I will always express it through my work," he said. "I think the artist is like a torch-bearer for people who have been sidelined. We are there to fight for people who might not have the opportunity to fight for themselves. If that opportunity can be found through theatre, then so be it."

He came from a prominent political family in Malawi. He was born in 1963, the third son of the veteran nationalist Dunduza K. Chisiza, who had been tipped to become the country's first Finance Minister on independence from Britain in 1964, but 🥌 who had died in a car crash in September 1962, six months before the birth of Dunduza junior. His uncle, Yatuta Chisiza, had also been involved in politics, serving as body-guard to Banda during the struggle for independence in the early 1960s. Following independence. Yatuta turned against the president and was killed during an attempted take-over in 1967.

Chisiza first became interested in the theatre while a secondary-school student at the Henry Henderson Institute in Blantyre, Malawi. In 1982 he wrote and directed The Deceased's Attack, which won first prize at the National Schools Drama Festival. After leaving school in 1983, he formed the Wakhumbata Workshop Theatre. Wakhumbata has many meanings in two of the main Malawian languages - Chichewa and Tumbuka - among them "one who hugs", "one who hatches eggs"

and "those who grieve". He left for the United States in 1983 for further studies and in 1987 however, on 8 May 1933, with Dim- he was awarded an MA in Fine and Performing Arts at the Philadelphia University of the Performing Arts. He was also keen on martial camera managed to capture the arts and obtained a black belt only images of the mural to survive. | and became an instructor at the Throughout the 1930s, Bloch Philadelphia Arts Centre. In 1987 he professional theatre company.

His plays ranged over a variety of handling the plaster and she the Knows and Tears of Blood Clate ment, which had been operating failed to understand," he later remarked. In 1991 Educating Musalimu, concerning love, marriage and "the new woman", was shortlisted in a BBC playwriting contest. Race relations and Pan-Africanism were dealt with in a historical context in Barefoot in the Heart (1992).

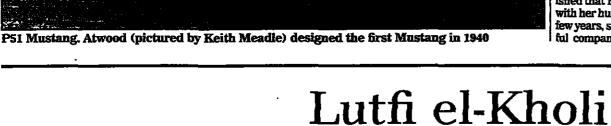
It was for his political plays that he was best known. The Deceased's Attack was a rewriting of the Hamlet story with a Hamlet-type figure clearly modelled on Chisiza himself. The protagonist contemplates revenge for the death of his own father, an allusion to the theory that Dunduza Chisiza Senior was reputedly killed by agents of Banda. Papa's Empire (1990) used the corruption of a private enterprise as a thinly disguised fable for the malpractices of Banda's Malawi Congress Party government.

In the run-up to multi-party elections in 1994, Chisiza was courted by each of the three major political parties. It was a great surprise to many when in 1993 he threw in his lot with the MCP. He was given a ministerial post - Minister for Sports, Youth and Culture - in one of Banda's last cabinets. During this year, he produced Democracy Boulevard (1993), which, controversially, satirised some of the abuses associated with multi-party democracy, particularly in relation to the unmuzzled media.

With the defeat of the MCP Du Junior, as he was known, announced his withdrawal from active politics and wrote De Summer Blow, exploring political and social issues in the post-Banda era. In 1998 he joined the ruling United Democratic Front and had recently agreed to stand as a parliamentary candidate for Karonga South in the forthcoming general election on 18 May this year.

On Du Junior's death, from an Aids-related illness, the historian D.D. Phiri wrote in The Nation newspaper that "Dunduza Chisiza Junior inherited not just a name but work and ability to mix with the humble and great alike. Those of us who had known his father saw in Du Junior a true chip off the old block. We welcomed with appreciation his rising fame in playwriting and acting."

Dunduza Chikosa Chisiza, playwright: born 26 March 1963; married 1993 Ngongite Mwafulirwa (three children); died Chilumba, Malawi 24 February 1999.



IT IS said that prophets are misunderstood in their own lifetime. This was almost certainly true of Lutfi el-Kholi, one of Egypt's leading columnists and political activists.

During the course of several decades, Kholi metamorphosed from the cerebral dynamo behind Gamal Abdel Nasser's ideology of "Arab socialism" in the 1960s, to become Anwar Sadat's sworn foe in the 1970s, a champion of Palestinians and Egypt's poor in the 1980s, and a born-again campaigner for peace with Israel in the 1990s.

His last years were blighted by perhaps the most virulent vilification that the turbulent world of Egyptian debate has witnessed. To many, the great patriot had become the ultimate turncoat. He hore these attacks with a courage, determination and integrity that won plaudits even from his bitterest enemies.

He had begun his political life as a member of the Egyptian Communist Party, and in the 1940s wrote a number of anti-government tracts. However his ultimate political home was the leftist Tagammu (Coalition) party, which he joined when Sadat was president.

Kholi had trained as a lawyer. graduating from Cairo University in 1949, and as well as journalism he also wrote plays (e.g. Kings' Coffee Shop, 1955, and Rabbits, 1964) and screenplays, the best-known of which was The Sparrow, in which the lack of freedom of expression in Arab states was blamed for their defeat in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

In 1963 he joined the newspaper Al-Ahram. Hassanein Heikal, Nasser's literary confidant and himself a journalist, recognised Kholi's versatile intellect, and in 1966 saw that he was appointed editor-in-chief of Al-Tulia ("The Vanguard"), a campaigning journal which inspired a generation of new writing talent. Kholi's political mentors (including Nasser) exploited his ability to converse candidly with all strata of society. As the Israeli academic Ginat Rami put it, Kholi became the "conducting rod between the ruling élite and the masses"

However in 1977 Sadat stripped Kholi of his editorship. It was not the first time his outspoken antiestablishment views had landed him in trouble; he had previously ended up in prison. Even fellow radicals could not fathom why he insisted on being such a maverick.

Kholi was a consultant to Yasser

Arafat, the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation leader, from the early 1970s. He rejected Sadat's peace deal with Israel in 1979, and was in charge of an official Egyptian charity that backed the Palestinian "Intefadeh", or uprising, of 1988-93. Yet he put himself out on a limb to create Egypt's first "peace movement" in April 1998, precisely when Israeli-Egyptian relations were at their lowest ebb for decades. In 1991, he had been a member of the Egyptian delegation to the Middle East Peace Conference in Madrid, and after Arafat signed the Oslo peace accord with Israel in 1993,

with Israel The Egyptian/Israeli peace treaty of 1979, the first between any Arab nation and Israel, has lasted ever since although Egypt suffered ostracism from the rest of the Arab world until 1990. Peace with Israel has therefore been quite unpopular on "the Arab street", especially whenever it was perceived that Israel was breaking the spirit of the agreement (e.g. invading Lebanon in 1982, building settlements). The Egyptian Writers Union and other academic bodies maintain a "boycott" on normalisa-

Kholi changed to become one of

Egypt's chief advocates of peace

tion with Israel, which Kholi -

bravely or wilfully - broke. In the last few years Kholi and his colleagues in the peace movement, Abdel-Moneim Said and Salah Bassiouni, were blacklisted by their peers, yet pressed ahead. They felt inspired by their meetings with Israeli, European, Jordanian and Palestinian academics in Denmark, where in January 1997 they had signed the "Copenhagen Declaration" and launched the International Alliance for Arab-Israeli Peace.

Kholi denied any inconsistency between his former and later stands. To him, "normalisation" with the Jewish state was not an end in itself. but rather the ultimate "weapon" which Egypt could wield to achieve justice in the region. Egyptians who disagreed were "sideliners clinging to a rigid, facile stance, oblivious to change ... obsessed with form over content". Nor did he spare the old foe. On a controversial visit to protest at the Har Homa development near Jerusalem, he told Benjamin Netanyahu: "You are not building homes; you are building graves to bury the peace."

Kholi was periodically feted and rejected by Egypt's establishment. He joined Egypt's leading intellectual think-tank, the Al-Ahram Centre for Political and Strategic Studies in the 1970s, but was later forced into temporary exile in Paris; only to return, advocating human rights, low-cost housing and a bank for the poor. For a diehard socialist, he was more au fait than many half his age with the realities of globalisation, and the potential of telecommunications to eradicate borders.

For many years Kholi wrote an influential column in Al-Ahrom. Journalists there paid tribute to his candour and conviction, his promotion of new talent, his imperturbable logic, piercing gaze and his sly sense of humour. The paper's cartoonist, George Bahgory, described his mane of white hair which "floated about a large and leonine head, as if whipped into disarray by a storm ... Perhaps his thoughts generated this halo of crackling energy.

Yet Kholi's enthusiasms came at a cost. For signing the Copenhagen Declaration and visiting Israel, he faced disciplinary procedures from his Tagammu Party, and was investigated by a committee of the Egyptian Journalists' Guild, with a view to possible expulsion. Mohamed Sid Ahmed, a fellow columnist and friend, initially backed Kholi's peace



Kholi: 'crackling energy

quest, but later balked because he felt it was premature. The result was a bitter public spat. Sid Ahmed still blames Kholi for thinking that he was leading a "grassroots movement", whereas in fact he was "a general his father's talents, capacity for without an army . . . isolated from his source of legitimacy".

None the less, to Sid Ahmed. Lutfi el-Kholi remained a "warriorknight who never shrank from challenging . . . the unanimous view".

LAWRENCE R. JOFFE

Lutfi el-Kholi, journalist, playwright and political activist: born Qalyoubia Governorate, Egypt 1927; married; died Cairo 4

unduza Chisiza

KEND REVIEW

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Christine Glanville

AS ONE of Gerry Anderson's chief puppeteers and puppet-makers, Christine Gianville saw the whole evolution of film and television puppetry and was at the heart of that development. She worked on almost all of the classic Anderson television series of the 1960s, including Stingray and Thunderbirds.

She was born in Halifax in 1924, but moved with her family to London as a child. Originally trained as an artist, she had visions of entering Fleet Street after the war (a relative was a cartoonist on Punch) but her parents were involved in puppetry and encouraged her to join Ebor Marionettes, one of the leading companies of the 1950s, as an assistant. She also built up her own marionette cabaret act, which featured a fine ballerina puppet based on Margot Fonteyn

and toured both the UK and Germany A friendship with another puppeteer, Joy Laurey (creator of Mr Turnip), led to work as a puppet operator on the television show The Adventures of Twizzle (1956) and the start of a lifelong association with Gerry Anderson. Torchy the Battery Boy (1957) followed, with puppets made by Glanville herself, whose style and attention to detail worked well in front of the camera. She found that she was more able to adapt her manipulation to the small screen than others trained in the live theatre.

After Torchy came Four Feather Falls (1958-59) and Supercar (1959-60), each production more ambitious than the last. Glanville teamed up with Mary Turner, who was also working for Anderson, and together they found themselves heading an ever-growing team of puppeteers as well as helping to make the famous characters.

Fireball XL5 (1961-62) followed by Stingray (1962-64) were next, and for these she was responsible for the design and sculpture of many of the most popular puppet characters, including Doctor Venus, Atlanta and Agent X20. The character of Titan, in Stingray, was based loosely on the actor Laurence Olivier. As the puppet was being delivered, the head of Titan was accidentally destroyed. Gianville, who had spent many days making it, simply pursed her lips, said "It's OK", and set to work again.

She regarded Stingray as one of her favourite series and felt that Thunderbirds (series one 1964-65, series two 1966) featured some of her best work. For this she created Scott and Alan Tracey - two of the five brother pilots of International Rescue - and Tin-Tin Kyrano. The feature film Thunderbirds are Go followed in 1966 for which she helped recreate a performance by Cliff Richard and the Shadows.

For Captain Scarlet and the Mysterons (1966-67), in partnership with Mary Turner, she made the "Angels", the female fighter pilots. These had more realistic proportions than previous puppets and were more difficult to operate, so new techniques were developed and for some sequences they were worked from below. Joe 90 (1967-68) and Secret Service (1968-69) were two of the later programmes in the "Supermari-

Stingray was her favourite series. But, as Titan was delivered, his head was accidentally destroyed

onation" era, each with Glanville and Turner in charge of puppetry.

In 1968 she stopped working for Anderson for a time and formed her own company called "Stage Three" which toured England with a rod puppet show featuring Rupert the Bear. During this period, she also worked as a freelance manipulator for the television series The Munch Bunch and Rupert the Bear.

In a valedictory speech, Gerry Anderson praised her great qualities as a puppeteer and her human qualities of never losing her temper and leading by



Glanville with the Thunderbirds puppets Parker and Lady Penelope

example. I had the opportunity of seeing this when we worked together for a short period on Terrahawks in the early 1980s and again in 1997 on The Avengers when we were engaged to film the sequence for the character Invisible Jones. There she was, still climbing ladders at 72 years old and still getting it right, usually on the first take. She never tired or became cynical about the industry and never lost her enthusiasm for puppetry.

Her last years were marked by more freelance work. She continued to work

with Gerry Anderson - helping to make the Dire Straits' "Calling Elvis" video, her work with him. These were always well attended and she would continue for hours until all questions were answered and everyone was satisfied. GEOFF FELIX

Nancy Christine Fletcher (Christine Glanville), puppeteer: born Halifax, Yorkshire 28 October 1924; died High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire 1

which he directed - and gave talks on

HISTORICAL NOTES

Pontius Pilate: a name set in stone

UNTIL 1961, there was no it did not mean much to Roconcrete archaeological evidence that Pontius Pilate, the fifth governor of Judaea, ever existed. There were accounts of him, of course, not least the accounts in the Gospels. But the records of his administration had disappeared completely: no papyri, no rolls, no tablets, no (authentic) letters to Rome. The Roman ruins

that remained in Israel seemed to have nothing to do with him. Even his aqueduct - a project that got him into plenty of trouble at the time - appeared to have crumbled away. In the summer of 1961.

however, Italian archaeologists found a piece of limestone, 82cm wide by 68cm high, in the ruins of a sports stadium in Caesarea, beside the sea. The stadium had not been there in Pilate's time; he had yelled at his gladiators in another place. But the stone bore his name.

and much else besides. Because it is the only artefact we have - the only proof of him, and also the only object we can be sure he looked at and thought about - even the tiniest aspects of Until there are more discoveries, this is as close as we are going to get.

So we have the name set would have been nice to have the progenomen too, Lucius or Publius or Quintus; although other occasions. Was he sim-

mans, it somehow makes them more complete to us. But never mind. We also have his title, Praefectus Judaeae. This is important, and not just because it settles the debate about what he called himself.

The word "prefect" had a military tang to it; this man was not just an administrator or a revenue-raiser, but also, when required, a fighter on horseback on the wilder fringes of the empire. Pilate often looks like an effete lawyer in the endless paintings of the trial of Jesus, but he ended his career in Judea just as a prefect should, commanding cavalry, putting down an insurrection in Samaria with sufficient violence to get himself recalled

to Rome.

The chief word on the inscription is something of a puzzle: Tiberieum. It appears to mean a complex of buildings in honour of Tiberius, centring round a temple where his image was worshipped, like the Caesareum in Alexandria. If that is what it was, it is the only one recorded, and Pilate may even have made up the name himself. Suetonius says that it have a huge importance. Tiberius did not like to be worshipped as a god, but he allowed it in the furtherflung bits of the empire. So here is Pilate audaciously, in stone, Pontius Pilate. It even rashly, honouring his emperor, as both Josephus and Philo tell us he did on

ply being an arch-sycophant, or did he mean it? Or was he moved by a mixture of both feelings? Whichever it was, it gives a new frisson to the reported taunt by the Jews at Christ's trial: "If you let this man go, you are not Caesar's friend."

The engraving of Tiberieum is evenly and soberly done. Not so the name of Pilate himself. There the letters jiggle up and down, with the Ts and the Is of Pontius Pilatus taller than the rest. The effect is untidy, even light-hearted. This looks like a man who is following a fashion of some sort, but is also confident enough to indulge himself. It looks like a man who might, on some occasions, dance.

It is fairly miraculous that the stone should have survived at all. The sea could have worn the lettering away. The builders who subsequently used it, when the Tiberieum itself had fallen into ruin, could have cut it in such a way that the name was illegible. It might have been thrown away as rubble, never recovered. As it is, it seems almost incredible: our one physical link to the man who, Christians believe, gave the human order that brought about mankind's eternal salvation.

Ann Wroe is the author of Pilate: the biography of an invented man' (Jonathan

Brock Speer

THE SPEER Family was among the first white gospel groups in America. Undertaking 200 concerts a year, the family inspired and encouraged numerous groups and they only disbanded last year due to the ill-health of their leader and bass vocalist, Brock Speer, However, outside the world of gospel music, Brock Speer will also be remembered as a of Elvis Presley.

Brock's father, George Thomas Speer ("GT"), was born in Alabama in 1891 and sang gospel music from an early age. He met his wife, Lena, who played pump organ, at a convention and they married in February 1920, with their first son, Brock, being born in December of the same year. They had three other children, Ben, Rosee Nell and Mary Tom. In 1921 GT and Lena formed the Speer Quartet, in Double Springs, Alabama. As the children became older, GT introduced them one by one to the group. which became the Speer Family. GT's instruction would be, "Always sing what you feel and feel what you sing."

Brock studied at Vanderbilt University in Nashville and obtained a Bachelor of Divinity degree, as he felt this would assist him in programming the family's concerts and records. From the mid-Forties "all-night singings", which often took place at midnight under a tree in a meadow, became popular and the



Speer: Elvis's backing singer

performers had to become entertainers. This detracted from the spirituality of the gospel music and led to a slump in its popularity in 1955.

In January 1956 both the Speer Family and Elvis Presley were signed. quite independently, to RCA Records in Nashville. Presley was keen to supplement the sparse sound that he had had on his Sun Records in Memphis and he wanted to use a vocal group, the Jordanaires. On the other hand, Chet Atkins, who organised the sessions, wanted to give the Speer Family additional money, but not all of them want-

ed to sing on secular records. A compromise was reached - Gordon Stoker from the Jordanaires with Brock and Ben from the Speer Family. Gordon Stoker recalls, "I knew Brock and Ben and liked them, but I said to Chet, Brock is a bass. Ben is a lead and I'm a first tenor, so who's gonna sing baritone?' Chet said, 'Don't worry, it won't make

The first RCA sessions took place in Nashville and the trio attended the second day of recording on 11 January 1956. Many Elvis books state that the trio sang on "Hearthreak Hotel", but there was no other voice but Elvis's on that track. However, they can be heard on the record's B-side, "I Was the One", and the album track "I'm Counting on You".

On the road, Elvis worked with the Jordanaires, but Gordon, Brock and Ben were recalled to the RCA studios in April 1956 where just one song was recorded, an emotional ballad called "I Want You, I Need You, I Love You", which went on to top the US charts. Despite its success, Presley used the Jordanaires on subsequent records.

After GT and Lena died in the mid-1960s, the Speer Family continued under Brock's management. The group consisted of Brock, his wife Faye. his son Brian, his brother Ben, and three or four other vocalists who were "adopted Speers".

Their albums were often nominated for Grammys: including Something Good is About to Happen (1975), Between the Cross and Heaven (There's a Whole Lot of Living Going On) (1976), Cornerstone (1977), Interceding (1980), He's Still in the Fire (1990) and Hollelujah Time (1991). They received many other awards, notably from the spel Music Association Hall of Fame (1998), and they performed for President Jimmy Carter at the White House in the late Seventies.

By that time, gospel music was no longer a Southern phenomenon and many artists gave the music contemporary settings. However, the Speer Family stuck to their roots and continued to perform the songs that made them popular like "I'm Building a Bridge" and 'I'll Meet You in the Morning." Ben Speer owned the publishing rights of "I'm Gonna Walk Dem Golden Stairs", which Elvis Presley recorded in 1960.

It was Brock's poor health that caused the group to disband in 1998. He said, "I am getting to a point in my life where I want to slow down. I'm not retiring and probably never will retire." SPENCER LEIGH

Brock Speer. singer: born Houston. Alabama 28 December 1920: married: died Nashville, Tennessee 29

Today is the still turning centre of the world

ed by the usual pleasures of a was truly dead before he rebank holiday weekend, we remember the most extraordinary sabbath in history: the day of rest that separated the Friday on which Jesus died and the Sunday on which he returned alive. It is a hiatus so marked that it has made the turning-point of history - God's engagement with death and conquest of it - seem like two distinct events, with their own respective theologies.

In our present culture, which is generally so intolerant of delay, there are still occasions when we like to wait, if only for a moment. We enjoy the timing of the comedian who allows our false expectations to form before he demolishes them with his punchline. We appreciate the way the film-maker spins out the seconds between the leap and the landing to build the suspense and our eventual relief.

And so, in theory, we might account for this Saturday. The Resurrection, after all, is the ultimate comic reversal, the supreme coup de theatre, and God might be allowed to keep the world fooled just for a day. But the story of that first Easter weekend is a story of real people plunged into real grief and despair.

In his deeply painful poem "I Am", John Clare spoke of "the vast shipwreck of my life's esteems". It is, I suspect, an apt description of what the friends and followers of Jesus were experiencing.

"We had hoped," one of them was to say on the Sunday, in the famous encounter on the road to Emmaus, "that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel" - and in that messianic faith was invested all that their hearts desired for themselves. their families, their nation and the world.

Everything that matters in life they had expected Jesus to accomplish for them. It is difficult to imagine - after his execution in the most horrific and degrading way that contemporary civilisation could devise what consolation might have remained to them.

Why, then, did Jesus delay to put an end to their misery? Perhaps there was a practical

TODAY, IF we are not distract- reason, to prove that he Humankind has waited too vealed that he was truly alive. Perhaps, to God's perfect sense of timing, a day is only a fraction of a second. But the guestion seems relevant because it is this day of hiatus, when all the passion of Passiontide has been drained away, that resonates most strongly with our own times.

History, so the political philosopher Francis Fukuyama tells us, has ended - without the denouement Jesus promised. Its final resolution, it seems, is not the triumph of cosmic good and the realisation of the kingdom of God on earth, but the global ascendancy of

ARGUMENTS FOR **EASTER**

HUW SPANNER

Between the agony of Good Friday and the ecstasy of Easter Day lies the silence of this fallow Saturday.

But listen carefully and you will hear the sound of laughter

liberal capitalism and the

magic kingdom of Disney. Like the disciples, we are retreating into our little communities. looking for reassurance where we can no longer find vision or purpose. How appropriate, some might say, if there is no room for Jesus in the Millennium Dome: 2,000 years after he claimed to be the redeemer and lord of the world, the mirage of peace and justice still shimmers out of reach, and we are about to enter the 21st century AD ("of our Lord") without faith, without meaning and with only the most limited aspirations - a cure for cancer, perhaps, and some decent television.

This withering of hope is, I imagine, what T.S. Eliot had in mind in "The Hollow Men".

long: the shadow that falls "between the idea and the reality, between the motion and the act" has stretched and stretched until our strength has given out. We cannot complete the statement of faith "For Thine is the Kingdom", or even finish the tired complaint that life hangs heavy. The end of the world is a state of enervation. No wonder that the most zealous churches tend to be those that expect the apocalypse now: it is difficult to keep your light burning if you are wondering whether the darkness will last for another 20 centuries.

The Saturday between Good Friday and Easter Sunday - a sabbath without hope or consolation for those first followers of Jesus - stands for all the centuries that have followed. No matter whether life is more comfortable or more secure or, even, more rewarding than it was in Jesus's day: the point is that the kingdom has not come.

Whether or not the rest of

the world has been listening to the "good news", that the exile of the human race is over and all of creation is reconciled to its Creator, the Church has announced it, and announced it again, and announced it again - and still the promised resolution has failed to materialise. Alienation has become the hallmark of our culture. Creation is "groaning in travail" still, and now more loudly than ever. No wonder the smile seems to be frozen on the faces

of many Christians. Is this all that we have to look forward to? An endless vista of days without meaning? Tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow? No. The lesson of this Saturday is that, whether we are waiting faithfully for it or not, a day will break which will be the last - and that day will reveal that the victory of Jesus is indeed already complete. We do not know - and perhaps it is beyond our comprehension why that punchline has been so long delayed. But when it comes, the sound of triumph will be the roar of laughter.

Huw Spanner is publisher of 'Third Way' magazine

GAZETTE

Ms Shona McIsaac MP. 39:

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

BIRTHS

MacCOLL: On Thursday 25 March, to Charlotte (née Pick-ford) and Michael, a daughter,

DEATHS

MONTAGUE: June, cherished daughter of Louise and mother of Peter and Lesley, died peacefully at North London Hospice on 30 March, aged 62. The funeral will be on Thursday 8 April, 3.15pm, at St Thomas' Church, Oakwood. Family flowers only. Donations payable to the Helen Rollason Cancer Care Centre Appeal, cio W. Nodes, 98 Crown Lane, Southgate, N14.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

FORTHCOMING **MARRIAGES**

Mr D. J. N. Fendley and Miss C. S. Zaidi The engagement is announced between Daniel, son of Dr and Mrs Jack Fendley, of Wimbledon, London, and Charlotte, daughter of Mr and Mrs Tahir Zaidi, also of Wimbledon.

BIRTHDAYS

TODAY: Mr Alec Baldwin, actor, 41; Professor Janet Bately, Emeritus Professor of English at King's College London, 67; Mr Tony Benn MP, 74; Mr Marlon Brando, actor, 75; Canon Anthony Caesar, an Extra Chaplain to the Queen, 75; Miss Doris Day, actress and singer, 75; Mr Dennis Fart, former director, Courtauld Institute Galleries, 70; Mr William Gaunt, actor, 62; The Duke of Grafton, conservationist, 80; Herr Helmut Kohl, for-

mer German chancellor, 69;

Mr Eddie Murphy, actor, 38; Sir Martin Nourse. a Lord Justice of Appeal, 67; Mr Charles Nunneley, chairman, National Trust, 62; Sir John Smith, former MP, founder of the Landmark Trust, 76; Miss Jan Sterling, actress, 76; Lt-Cdr Sir Godfrey Style, governor, Queen Elizabeth's Foundation, 84; Mr Francis Tate, former chairman, Tate and Lyle, 86; Sir Malcolm Thornton, former MP, 60; Professor Kathleen Tillotson, scholar

and writer, 93; Mr John

Professor Sir Michael

Woodruff, surgeon, 88.

Vîrgo, snooker player, 53;

TOMORROW: Mr Jonathan Agnew, cricketer, 39; Mr Peter Attenborough, former Headmaster of Charterhouse, 61; Sir John Beith, former diplomat, 85; Mrs Margaret Dupont, former tennis champion, 81; Dr Christopher Fay, chairman and chief executive, Shell UK, 54; Brigadier Anne Field, former Deputy Controller Com-

mandant, WRACS, 73; Mr Jim Fitzpatrick MP, 47: Earl Jellicoe, President. Royal Geographical Society. 81; Mr Nick McCarthy, High Commissioner to Cameroon and ambassador to Gabon, 61: Professor David Melville, chief executive, **Further Education Funding** Council for England, 56; Mr Barry Reamsbottom, General Secretary, Civil and Public Services Association. 50; Dame Catherine Tizard, former Governor-General of New Zealand, 68: Mr Rudolph Vis MP, 58.

ANNIVERSARIES

TODAY Births: Henry IV, King of England, 1367; The Rev George Herbert, clergyman and poet, 1593. Deaths: Jesse Woodson James, outlaw, shot in the back, 1882; Kurt Julian Weill, composer. 1950: Henry Graham Greene. novelist, 1991. On this day: Haile Selassie (Ras Tafari) was proclaimed Emperor of

Richard of Chichester and St Sixtus I, pope. TOMORROW Births: Grinling Gibbons. sculptor and woodcarver, 1648; Anthony Perkins, actor. 1932. Deaths: Oliver Goldsmith, playwright, 1774; Martin Luther King, civil rights campaigner, assassinated 1968. On this day: Francis

Ethiopia, 1930: after two false

starts, the Grand National

was declared void, 1993.

Saints Agape, Chionia.

or Fare, St Nicetas. St

Pancras of Taormina, St

Today is the Feast Day of

and Irene, St Burgundofara

Drake completed his circumnavigation of the world and was knighted by Queen Elizabeth I, 1581; a Chinese republic was proclaimed in Tibet, 1912; the North Atlantic Treaty, which created Nato, was signed in Washington, 1949. Tomorrow is Easter Day and the Feast Day of Saints Agathopus and Theodulus, St Benedict the Black, St Isidore of Seville, St Plato and St Tigernach.

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Now that's what they call music

What happens when you give 10 writers and cartoonists

free rein to compile and illustrate their own CD? Something surprising, predictable, innovative and revelatory. Andy Gill spoke to Hunter S Thompson, Gilbert Shelton and Savage Pencil about their choices

erhans because both nusic and literature, unlike painting, are experienced as they unfold through time, music has traditionally held a special position in the affections of writers. Carlyle described it. rather sweetly, as the speech of angels, while Goethe, with typical Teutonic hyperbole, claimed that music gave the "dignity of art" its very highest expression. Shakespeare probably put it best when he wrote: The man that hath no music in himself. Nor is mov'd with concord of sweet sounds, Is fit for treasons, stratagems and spoils... Let no such man be trusted."

Subsequent eras have seen no dimming of the ardour felt by writers for sweet music, reaching a peak of aesthetic symbiosis in the Fifties, as beat wordsmiths like Jack Kerouac tried to develop extemporised prose riffs to mimic the way that Charlie Parker bebopped around with a tune. But the relationship between the two media has probably never been as close as it became in the Sixties, the decade in which, thanks to the influence of Bob Dylan and The Beatles (and the comparatively dismal standard of movies), music and words became the primary modes of expression through which a generation defined itself and the work around it.

It's entirely appi priate, then, that the 10 writers and cartoonists featured in the first be ch of EMI's Songbooks series should either be that era. Styled to resemble a book, each CD features music chosen by an individual writer o reflect their personality in some way. Some choices provoke idle questions - how did Iain Banks square his taste for both Jethro Tull and The Sex Pistols back in 1977? – while others manage to be both predictable and revelatory; knowing that the cartoonist Robert Crumb is a fanatical collector of dance-band 78s from the Twenties, for instance, still doesn't prepare you for the joyous delirium of the 24 examples he's compiled on his lovingly packaged That's What I Call Sweet Music. Others accurately convey the quixotic nature of selectors such as Ralph Steadman (Spike Jones, Leonard Cohen, Beethoven, Billie Holiday) and Ivor Cutier (Mahalia Jackson, Bartok, boogie-woogie, Arvo Part and world music).

Only occasionally are the selections at variance with what you

would expect. You might imagine, for instance, that the creator of those celebrated hippie icons The Fabulous Furry Freak Brothers would choose wall-to-wall psychedelia and drug songs, but Gilbert Shelton's Honky Soul, Roce Music, Hard Bop & Anachronic Jazz - another beautifully-packaged offering - tracks instead the cartoonist's obsessions from an earlier era, blending R&B classics, comedy songwriters and cool jazz sounds from his Fifties childhood in Houston.

Shelton's taste for comedy songs such as Hoagy Carmichael's "Hong Kong Blues" and Tom Lehrer's "The Irish Ballad", is all but insupportable today. "It's a special genre that kind of peaked in the Fifties," he acknowledges. "Maybe nothing's

'I have to write to music,' says Thompson. 'I have to get a rhythm'

funny any more! Tom Lehrer claimed that the success of Bob Dvlan killed off both the folk song and topical song in one fell swoop."

The decline of the topical come-

dy song, however, was probably due more to the form's dilettante distance from its subject-matter, as the Sixties got up close and personal. No writer reflects the immediacy of that era better than the gonzo journalist Hunter S Thompson, inspired protagonist of a thousand legendary scrapes, and deviant analyst of his country's degenerate progress through four decades. Hunter's compilation Where Were You When The Fun Stopped? is stuffed with images of escape and outsiderdom - from "White Rabbit" and "Spirit in the Sky", to Robert Mitchum's moonshine odyssey "Ballad of Thunder Road" that skilfully evoke the counter-cul-

tural zeitgeist of the Sixties. For Thompson, music is indispensable to his creative process. "I have to write to music," he explains. "If I don't hear the music, I don't like it; I have to get a rhythm. I must have worn out three or four tapes of The Rolling Stones' Get Yer Ya-Yas Out! when I was writing Fear & Loathing In Las Vegas. I consider myself a musician - but with a different keyboard!"

Thompson approached the se-

Wolf's "I Šmell a Rat" – which could be his signature tune, if you think about it - was, he claims, "a big influence on me when I was a teenage juvenile delinquent", and "American Pie" was his "Saigon song", a reminder of his time in Vietnam. His old friend Jimmy Buffett's "Why Don't We Get Drunk" - which could be his signature tune, if you think about it - is a reminder of their time together in Key West ("Fast boats on the ocean at night - oh yeah! I like to do that!"), while Herbie Mann's version of "Battle Hymn of the Republic", which closes the album on a wistful note, served as Thompson's official campaign song when he ran for sheriff of Aspen in the Seventies. But there are, he claims, some glaring omissions, most notably Van Morrison and, of course, the Stones. "Just licensing that stuff is so hard," he says. "We just barely got Bob

Tambourine Man*, whose aspirational qualities are neatly balanced later on by The Band's "The Weight", perhaps the most sophisticated evocation of the disillusion that afflicted the same generation a few years later. "Absolutely!" concurs Thompson. "You have to keep in mind that a lot of these songs are from that era when everybody we voted for and thought was gonna change things, that represented the better angels of our nature, was killed. So these songs reflect a sadness with what could have been - a disillusionment, yes, you might well say that.

'I guess it's all about growing and getting over it," he concludes. "Only the really crazy, or the very lucky, go to their graves believing in all the high things. You don't get any wiser or better as you get older. That's why these songs are kinda sad, 'cause it reflects that melancholy."

The other side of the coin to that generational melancholy is rage, most accurately reflected here in the punk cartoonist Savage Pencil's The AntiQuack, on which music by Captain Beefheart, Faust, Sun Ra and Viv Stanshall illustrates a scabrous, visceral narrative concerning Dead Duck, an old SP cartoon character. "It was a way of making some-

thing a bit different out of the brief that I'd been given, using this Dead Duck character," explains Sav, aka Edwin Pouncey. "I realised that it wasn't going to

make much sense with just this

Dylan on there at the last second." The Dylan song in question is "Mr

> an aural mini-movie, and got my next-door neighbour Rob Brown, who does voice-overs for Lynx after-

shave, to narrate the story." The CD is not, Pouncey is at pains to point out, a definitive account of his own musical character. "The Dead Duck character came out through listening to really bad gangsta rap records," he says, "but to have included a bad gangsta rap track would have been too obvious. And it just wouldn't fit. The idea was to make this thing that flows, and I hope it does. I'm particularly proud of the way the Quicksilver Messenger Service and the Faust track collide; it's an attempt to give bad-trip

brain, done with a Carl Stalling, Loony Tunes-type mentality."

The next step, Pouncey explains, is to present The AntiQuack as a live show at the ICA, with a rock band playing and Brown narrating. "I want to extend it further, beyond the comic-book format," he says, "Because I don't want to draw comics any more. It's too time-consuming, like writing a novel, and by the time you've got it out nobody wants to read it anyway because it isn't The X-Men or something boring like that. Whereas the spoken word thing is interesting because you can make your own visuals up in your mind, as you do when you read a book. Or the lection process as a kind of musical music and these drawings, so I karma a sound, to suggest what's way rock music used to be before diary, choosing songs that recalled wrote a narrative and made it into happening in the duck's diseased bloody pop videos came along and way rock music used to be before

robbed you of your imagination."

Therein, I believe, lies the ultimate value of this Songbooks series. as reminders of what things were like before the tyranny of the moving image had completely colonised consumers' imaginations. When detractors criticise TV, movies and computer games, the talk is invariably of content, of the desensitising effect of representations of sex and violence; but the real danger surely lies much deeper, inherent in the very nature of the delivery system itself. For unlike music and literature, both of which act as spurs to the imagination, relying on the consumer to bring the raw material to life through their own visualisations, screen-based media allow no

interpretation other than that presented on screen.

It's a diametrically opposed effect. the difference between an outgoing, centrifugal attitude and an insular, centripetal one, and it represents perhaps the greatest factor separating today's Disneyfied, merchandisehungry youth from the generation responsible for the cultural explosion of the Sixties. We shall not see its like again, because nowadays, ironically, we are only allowed to see.

Apocalypse Culture is at the ICA today from 2.30pm to midnight, including performances by Ivor Cutler, Robert Crumb, Gilbert Shelton and Savage Pencil. Information:







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Still waters

KURT WEILL'S Der Silbersee (The Silverlake, with a libretto by Georg Kaiser) opened in Germany just after Hitler became chancellor in 1933. Nine days later the Reichstag went up in flames, and further performances of The Silverlake (and much else besides) were banned. Shortly after, Weill fled Germany, never to return. Can we, or should we, forget the work's originating context? Of course not, but, like any opera, The Silverlake now needs to make its way in our world.

Congratulations, then, to Broomhill Opera for staging it, in full (that's a rarity), in a new translation by Rory Bremner, and for doing so at Wilton's, a Victorian music hall, the survival of which is almost as miraculous as anything that happens in The Silverlake. Broomhill plans to make Wilton's a fully functioning venue for both Tower Hamlets and the wider community, and while it still needs plenty of work, its present distressed grandeur is wholly appropriate for the decaying world we see in The Silverlake.

and its fantastic elements, suf-

Weill and Kaiser subtitled the opera "a winter's fairy tale"

OPERA DER SILBERSEE WILTON'S MUSIC HALL

LONDON fused with a beseeching optimism, set it apart from the works that Weill wrote with Bertolt Brecht. Weill's music achieves an expansive lyricism that prefigures what he wrote after settling in America in 1935, but it remains a piece from the composer's German period, the greatest according to some, more profound than The Threepenny Opera, more humane than Mahagonny. Gordon Anderson's production here is perhaps too tentative to confirm its greatness, but it's

an honourable attempt. The work itself mixes speech, song and melodrama in a way that demands singing actors and acting singers, and if Anderson's young cast is sometimes outfaced by both dramatic and musical demands, nobody is anything less than wholehearted.

The translation isn't overly Bremnerised; the dialogue (too often shouted rather than spoken) is rather ponderous, but a sprinkling of topicalisms do

The lottery as deus ex machina reminds us that our world isn't that far removed from that of The Silverlake, and Thomas Hadley's designs cleverly incorporate flickering TV screens to represent the silver lake across which, as in the biblical exodus, our two indigent "heroes" escape. But relevance alone isn't enough, and what this production shows is just how powerful Weill's music remains, from the searing abrasions of Fennimore's "Ballad of Caesar's Death", affectingly sung by Al McGregor, to the vengeance aria of the imprisoned Severin (Michael Hart-

enough to bridge then and now.

a mite taxed). What works best, though, is the 28-piece orchestra, posi-tioned under the balcony for maximum aural impact and conducted with electrifying the atricality by Charles Hazle. wood. Here no allowance is needed: this is modern drama. breathing fire in a world where too much is lukewarm. NICK KIMBERLEY

Davis, whose lyrical tenor was

Further performances at Wilton's, Grace's Alley, London E1 (0171-702 9555) to April 18

ARTS DIARY

DAVID LISTER WHO SAID Chris Smith and

his Culture Department hadn't mastered the art of spin? Mr Smith proved himself worthy of Shane Warne at his best this week as the BBC, ITV and a clutch of newspapers all reported that he had "announced" that children would be allowed in free to museums this Easter. In fact, the 'announcement" came in

the Government's spending plans last November And what the "announcement" has masked is the difficulties Mr Smith is having persuading the charging museums to switch to free admission for adults. However, the clever chap "announced" his news via the political correspondents who had

most of their attention on the war and the Irish peace talks. Well spun, sir. ONE MUSEUM that is

certain to have a good year. thanks more to a mixture of history and geography than to pricing policy, is the National Maritime

Museum, situated on the spot where time, in its most British sense, began. Its director, Richard Ormond. is making the most of his institution's millennium associations. As the building includes the Greenwich Royal Observatory, he has approved the licensing of the museum's millennium logo to clients, including retailers of supermarket wines. One has even put down £250,000 as an advance against sales. So get plastered with a clear conscience. It's all in the cause of museum funding.

WHO IS one of the most immediate beneficiaries of the Oscars? David Hare. His play *Amy's View*, about to open in New York, has taken more than \$4m. The award for Judi Dench, who stars in the play, has made New Yorkers realise that they ought to see her. A spokesman for the play said: "I've never seen ticket sales quite like this. Before the Oscars, we were doing about \$70,000 a day. Now, we are doing \$100,000."

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KEND REVIEW

Theatre as architecture Dusty and

In Geometry of Miracles, Robert Lepage explores a famous partnership. But should we read this as a subtle hatchet job on Frank Lloyd Wright? By Paul Taylor

t was no huge surprise to learn that Robert Lepage, the French-Canadian theatre wizard, had turned his attention to the great Wisconsin-born American architect Frank Lloyd Wright

Both men are, after all, strongly attracted to the Japanese. The earth-hugging horizontality of Wright's domestic buildings, their non-occidental concept of space which softens the barrier between inner and outer with folding screens, is creatively indebted to Japan. And it was a low-slung Japanese house that was the anchoring image in Lepage's Seven Screens of the River Ota - his vast, Hiroshima-centred trek through the past half-century - where the stretched, cinematic shape of the building and the multipurpose screens were tailormade for the kind of shadow play and drama through sil-houette in which this director

delights.
What does come as a shock, though, as you watch Geometry of Miracles at its British première in Glasgow, is the extent to which the show is less a homage to Wright than a stealthy hatchet job. This is one of the more intriguing aspects of the evening, alongside the piquant irony that the event takes place in an auditorium in the SECC at Finnieston, a vast, soulless complex that Wright would have refused to recognise as a building. Gertrude Stein once said of the book that it wasn't literature; it was scarcely typing. The SECC isn't architecture; it is scarcely brick-laying.

Geometry of Miracles is in part a dramatisation of the creative rapport (and domestic tensions) between Wright and Georgi Gurdjieff, the Russian mystic, composer and mathematician whom the architect met through his cranky third wife, Olgivanna. At the start of the show, Wright in late middle age (Tony Guilfoyle) is visited by Gurdjieff in the shape of a

HISEVIEW

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Tony Guilfoyle as Frank Lloyd Wright in Robert Lepage's 'Geometry of Miracles'

(Rodrigue Proteau) who sinuously clambers over the architect's drawing-board and endeavours to lure him into a Faustian pact. The diabolical riddle of how you make a threedimensional object from a single continuous line, Wright solves easily by drawing a beautiful inverted helix - the shape of the Guggenheim Museum, that late masterpiece: a defiantly perverse, art-hating art gallery. Allowed by Beelzebub to revisit his past. Wright conducts us on a journey that becomes a catalogue raisonnée of the rather unlovable contradictions in this man and Thirties furniture polish mag-

the ideal that architects should be individuals first and architects second, and that architecture should take its cue from nature, Wright is shown to be the overlord of a community of trainees that is practically a totalitarian state in the jealous, oppressive demands it makes on its inmates.

True to its title, the show is a marvel of geometry, making ingenious use of a tilted screen and patterned stage and proceeding in sections that take their names (Circles, Triangles, etc) from abstract form. It is both witty - Johnson, the

dances his naïve comm- unications like Jimmy Cagney in Footlight Parade- and often sensuously beautiful, as in the lovely hypnotic angularity of the ensemble callisthenic dances, masterminded by Gurdjieff, which at one point veer disturbingly into a trance-like depiction of a fatal car crash. But the irony that the show itself suffers from the very flaws (overweening hubristic rigidity. etc) that it identifies in Wright seems to have escaped it, and the script is toe-curlingly embarrassing. At one point, we are treated to a brisk tableau history of 20th-century Russia, re glancing play is made of

the fact that phrases such as "red square" and "yellow triangle" cannot, to contemporary ears, signify pure apolitical entities. The sequence only succeeds in exemplifying the dreadful weakness in Lepage's output - that, however concerned with the non-aesthetic it tries to be, the work has the frictionless feel of a set of puerile conceits engendered in some international transit lounge of the soul. The sufferings of this dreadful century become unpleasantly weightless in this puckish world. When, at one stage, the well-drilled cast start counting backwards in

unison, you wonder whether

page's emotional age. This director is rightly honoured for the way he develops and refines his theatre pieces over time. Geometry of Miracles will, I hope, benefit from this treatment. Because, at the moment, the central image of Wright's drawing-board (which metamorphoses ingeniously into an adulterous bed, a grand piano and so on) principally reminds you that a drawing-

> haven't got it right first time. Lomond Auditorium, SECC, Glasoom (0141-287 7777)

> board is the place to which

artists return when they

they are trying to locate Le-

candy floss

THE DEPENDABLE superficiality of Radio 2 ensured that there was no undue prying into Dusty Springfield's private life during last Saturday's special tribute programme. Instead, A Girl Called Dusty concentrated on the ups and downs of her musical career, Lulu, Tony Bennett, Burt Bacharach and Elvis Costello stood in line to pay homage to the inventor of British soul

St Louis Blues". Dusty took a lot of risks, disbanding the highly successful Springfields just as the great Merseybeat wave was about to break over them, and switching within months to the kind of sound produced by The Exciters and the Isley Brothers. Her voice brought happiness to many, and there'll no doubt be a lot of people whistling "I only want to be with

music who, at the age of

12, shocked the nuns at

her school by singing "The

you" this Easter weekend. If you happen to visit a fairground over Easter you may care to ponder the disappearance of goldfish. Apparently they are no longer coveted by fairgoers, thanks mainly to the efforts of the RSPCA. In Goldfish and Candy Floss (Radio 2, Tuesday), an exwaltzer operative, David Essex, told the story of travelling funfairs, amid the din of velocipedes, steam organs, dodgems, traction engines and badly worn pop records. All this racket provided a familiar background as the Essex lad interviewed veteran showmen. One of them explained how to erect a 47ft helter-skelter while making allowances for wind conditions. The fact that they sometimes get blown over, he pointed out, is traditional. Meanwhile, a gent called Arthur

Stephens lamented

THE WEEK IN RADIO

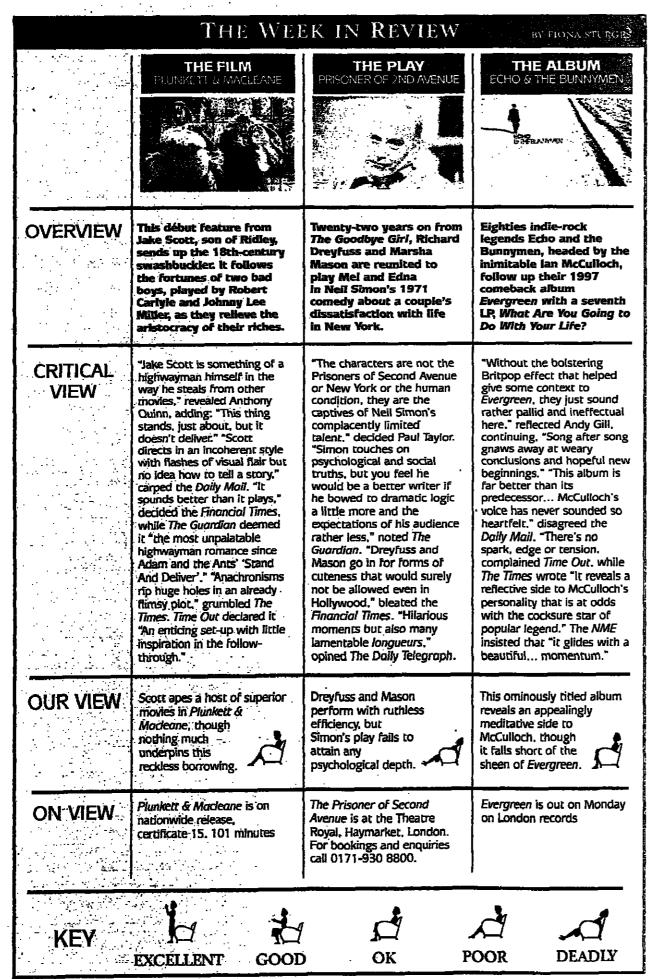


MAGNUS MILLS

the passing of goldfish. The showmen were their own worst enemy." he said. The little plastic bags were supposed to be for transportation purposes only, as specified by the RSPCA, but the stall-holders insisted on displaying their goldfish among the fairy lights, where they got hot and died. Before plastic bags were introduced the goldfish lived in bowls gathered together on a table. "You had to pitch the ball into the neck of the bowl to win it," said Mr Stephens. "And, of course, it frightened the fish."

To get some idea of how the goldfish must have felt under the bombardment. try Radio Yugoslavia (6185 kHz). Wednesday night's 10 o'clock transmission included graphic descriptions of "bombs. missiles and other deathdealing loads discharged by Nato", plus an appeal to Kosovar Albanians "not to leave but to stick together in these hard times and help curb the aggression".

The two female presenters talked in slightly wobbly tones about planes coming from the direction of Albania. These, they claimed, were armed with weapons banned by international wartime law. Earlier in the day Vatican Radio announced that a papal delegation was being dispatched immediately to Belgrade to help resolve the crisis. Perfect timing.





Nasty, naughty – but nice

James Herbert, the sulphurous prince of horror yarns, reveals his softer side to Peter Stanford

n the front hall of his West Sussex home, in the shadow of the Devil's Dyke, James Herbert has two chairs that once belonged to this century's most notorious satanist, Aleister Crowley. He likes playfully to challenge guests to perch in them to see if they get any unpleasant vibes. Further down the corridor to his office, Herbert points out a framed photograph of a sinister-looking, fleshy-faced man with Fifties-style slicked back hair and a wicked leer. It is Dennis Wheatley, in his day the most celebrated writer of horror stories in the world, and a man with an insatiable and unpleasant interest in the occult.

Such trappings fit neatly with 56-yearold Herbert's own reputation as British publishing's current prince of darkness, our answer to Stephen King and the bestselling author of a string of 18 horror novels. But the proximity of Crowley. Wheatley and the Devil had managed to make me decidedly uneasy about Herbert himself. I was beginning to regret not leaving his address with a close friend who could phone the police if I unaccountably went missing.

My jitters had first surfaced as I read his new novel Others (Macmillan, £16.99). It was so disturbing that I had to sit in my small son's bedroom, with his Tigger under my elbow and his Noddy cushion propping up my head, as if to shield myself with innocent goodness as I ploughed through a heli of abused bodies and a one-eyed limbless creature with a giant penis who copulates with the eye sockets of people he has dismembered. I couldn't help but feel soiled.

The man who has conjured up such an apocalyptic vision, dark and strange enough to rival Hieronymus Bosch's Garden of Earthly Delights, could not possibly be normal, I had decided. Yet, once we had walked on by the occult memorabilia and settled down to coffee and home-made carrot cake, it soon became clear that James Herbert is a benign pussy cat. He even revealed, as if sensing my nervousness, that - cradle Catholic as he is – he had invited the local priest in to bless the house.

A simply-dressed, slight, round-shouldered man who has never lost his East End accent. Herbert affects none of the Gothic flourishes, black velvet capes and wild eyes that go with the stereotype of a horror writer. Indeed, he sets about deliberately to ridicule the image created by his writings. The Crowley chairs are intended as a joke, he explained, an immediate sendup for any visitors who believe they are entering the Hammer House of Horror.

His office, with its beige carpet, austere modern furniture and air of good order, could easily belong to a successful accountant. And he is certainly successful. His books sell by the bucket-load around the world. Macmillan has just signed him up on a £1m.-per-book deal. And he has a dedicated following of fans who will rush out to buy his every work as soon as it appears. then take to the Internet to discuss their

dark insights into his soul. But, for Herbert, writing is much more than a very profitable business. Over three decades, he may have got used to the neglect, bordering on scorn, of a literary elite which dismisses him as an alien species, but he clearly has not let this disdain dent a healthy self-confidence. "Sure, Γm never going to win the Booker and I have no great literary pretensions," he says, "but I know how to write well. I do it the old-fashioned



JAMES HERBERT, A BIOGRAPHY

James Herbert was born in 1943, the youngest of three brothers, in London's East End. where his parents ran fruit and vegetable stalls. Educated at a Catholic grammar school in Highgate, he studied at Hornsey Art College and worked his way up to be creative director of an advertising agency before publishing The Rats in

1974. It was made into a film, as were The Survivor (1976), Fluke (1977) and Haunted (1988). His books have been translated into 33 languages and have sold 40 million copies. He has also published illustrated graphic novels and collections of non-fiction. Married for over 30 years, he has three daughters and lives in Sussex.

spelling and grammar. And I feel that Others could happily stand up against anything written by, say, Salman Rushdie."

The name is not picked at random. Herbert and Rushdie used to work for the same advertising agency, creating naughty but nice slogans. Both were restless and both aspired to write. There the similarity ends. At 26, Herbert shut himself away in his spare time and created The Rats, which in one particularly stomach-churning passage (and one that Herbert himself, later to become a father of three, now regrets) depicts a small baby eaten alive by rodents.

Its publication in 1974, along with the parallel rise of Stephen King across the Atlantic way with a pen and paper and I know my and the release of The Exorcist, marked

something of a renaissance for the horror genre. The outdated Wheatley world of aristocrats with crazed laughs (often played by Christopher Lee) was replaced by modern. apparently sane people suddenly prey to terrifying supernatural goings-on and outbreaks of bone-crushing violence.

Herbert's image as a writer is still very much dictated by those early books. "Often I'll meet people who, when they realise I'm James Herbert, will say 'Oh we read The Rats and The Fog [its best-known successor] but after that we grew out of you'. Well, I've grown of me in that sense. I've moved on as a writer. Its just that people don't seem to have noticed."

Herbert wants a new pigeonhole, and preferably one marked "to be taken seriously". It's a fairly common trait among bestselling supermarket authors. Susan Howatch, another star of Sainsburys in the Seventies, is battling to reposition herself as an upmarket heir to Anthony Trollope. Patrick O'Brian, captain of the profitable but unfashionable backwater of naval adventures, has found himself likened to Jane Austen by A S Byatt. And P D James has succeeded in broadening her appeal beyond the narrow and often enclosed world of crime fiction to win highfalutin plaudits.

Herbert's Others wears its literary allusions on its sleeve. The main action mir-You get the distinct sense that James rors the voyage through the many layers

of Dante's Inferno. Religious imagery and references to redemption and rebirth chime in with all the regularity of the angelus bell. In other recent novels, Herbert has written with passion about the environment (Portenf), about religion (Shrine), about the Second World War ('48).

Such experiments have not so far been noticed by anybody but his dedicated fans, because outsiders tend to stumble at the obstacle of that stock element of horror. Yet Herbert understandably refuses to move away entirely from the niche market he has done so much to create. He believes he can keep a foot in both camps. "It's one of the wonderful things about the horror genre," he says. "It allows you to cover so much romance, humour, history, crime.

In Others. he continues to exhibit that social conscience by tackling two very sensitive subjects: children and disability. The "others" are babies so deformed at birth that their parents are told they are dead - but they are kept by wicked doctors for cruel experiments. Herbert insists in an end-note ("lest I be accused of possessing an inordinately warped imagination") that he has real evidence of such a practice in an East End hospital.

Yet, in conversation, he admits it happened many years ago and that the combination of routine ante-natal scanning and legalised abortion - which he "loathes" makes his storyline implausible in modern Britain. However, he reaches into his desk draw to produce a newspaper cutting to show that there are wards of severely disabled and abandoned children in Russia and the developing world. His concern for their fate is clearly genuine and, because it stands in such stark contrast to his usual cynicism, quite moving. An idealist hidden behind the brutal world of his novels. Herbert keeps his charitable activities private but does much for underprivileged children.

His depiction of disability - in particular in his main character, private investigator Nick Dismas, and his love-interest, Charlotte - will be more controversial. Even in a post-Hoddle world of sensitivity. Herbert is happy to admit that he is not politically correct on the subject. He talks of cripples and claims that it is patronising to do anything else. For Herbert, disability is a lifetime's burden, a daily grind that dominates every waking hour. "People may put on a front, but if you're born diseased or abnormal, then it is a hindrance to life."

That negative picture is to some extent relieved by the book's uplifting ending. As a moral tale, albeit one of a decidedly oldfashioned variety. Others is perhaps more easily identifiable than some of his other books. But Herbert feels that all of them contain a moral message that counterbalances what might otherwis gutter of lurid fantasies. And that is the fascinating things about him: the combination of a strong moral sense - he does not, for instance, allow his 15-year-old daughter to read most of his books - with a boundless and disturbing imagination.

It's a circle that can't quite be squared. Why commit such details to paper if you consider them dangerous for some potential readers and when you know that many of them ignore any trace of a message? But the very fact that Herbert is so acutely aware of these contradictions is in itself interesting. It signals that there is something more than meets the eye about both the man and, lurking behind the blood and guts that spill over every page, about his books.

COVER **STORIES**



AS FAR as anyone knows,

Princess Diana left behind no diaries that an enterprising publisher might turn into a book However, she has apparently been busy in the hereafter, dictating her thoughts to "channeller" Rita Eide, whose book The Celestial Voice of Diana is already a bestseller in Norway. Cautious at first, the Findhorn Press the publishing arm of the longestablished alternative community in Moray, Scotland - decided to go ahead after Divine Providence or some such had caused the proposal to turn up three times in the mail. It seems that Diana came "on the line" to Eide within days of her untimely death and "asked" her to write a book. How appropriate, say Findhorn, that a woman who in life "declared herself ambassadorat-large should, beyond death. become an ambassador of the soul". Diana and Eide are now at work on a second volume. Meanwhile, Findhorn has sent a copy to her ex-husband, hoping for a comment. And, as if that isn't enough, the book world is buzzing with rumours that James Hewitt, another of Diana's unsuitable men, is at last at work on a memoir.

A TRUE sporting hero has set to work on his memoirs. Sir Stanley Matthews, who retired from football aged 50 and is now 84, this week signed with Headline for what, in the circs. is a modest advance of around £250,000. Sir Stanley has trenchant views on today's game and his book is not expected to pull punches.

WITH MEN are from Mars... still high in the charts, a tongue-incheek proposal is doing the rounds. Women are from Venus. Men are from Hell is having a hard time finding a publisher, however, male-led sales teams are not amused.

ONE COULD be forgiven for thinking that HarperCollins is an outpost of Tory Central Thatcher and, this autumn, the autobiography of John Major. Now they are also publishing In the Firing Line, the memoirs of the former Tory chairman Sir Brian Mawhinney. He's out of the stalls in September, and his book will "explore the Christian principles he seeks to live by". Discuss. Major's coming opus, unleashed into the conference season, is shaping up to be tougher than anticipated candid, unsparing and "frank about the civil war that emerged within his own party".

THE LITERATOR

Shards of a shattered city

Seen from a mythical age, far in the future, London today looks like a bad dream. John Clute celebrates one major writer's flight of fancy...

TO MISUNDERSTAND the past. it is not only necessary to have one in mind. There must also be an intuition that the past is ultimately unfathomable. This intuition postdates Edward Gibbon, and it postdates Sir Walter Scott as well. Not until the discovery of geological time did we begin to imagine that our past was unknowable; and that our world, too, might turn into

To write as though we were potential denizens of a faerie world became, soon enough, a tradition. A novel like John Ames Mitchell's The Last American (1889) could, three years after its erection, treat the Statue of Liberty as an icon future visitors would comically misconstrue. The 20th century, in Aldous Huxley's Brave New World (1932), is savagely distorted. America, in Robert Nathan's The Weans (1960), is radically misunderstood by archaeologists of the far future as

they sift through its junk. Peter Ackroyd's The Plato Papers, which is set two thousand years hence, comes as a very late example of this tradition. It is almost certainly the finest example of its sort: articulate, comic, wise, delicate, melancholy, exquisite. It simultaneously deconstructs the story of the past, and humbly old," attempt to reconfigure dissects a region called Amer-



these tokens of the distant past

builds its own myth. In short this is a carefully-pulsed breath of a book, with an impact that sneaks into one's dreams. There have been five Ages of

the world, it proposes: the Age of Orpheus (3500-300 BC); the Age of the Apostles (300 BC-1500 AD); the Age of Mouldwarp (1500-2300 AD); the Age of Witspell (2300-3400 AD); and the Present, when a young, cantankerous being named Plato is appointed Orator of London, a region of the mind founded by Brutus and warded by Gog and Magog. The (flat) world is an animate sounding board via which "tokens of events, perhaps many thousands of years

The Plato Papers

by Peter Ackroyd

Chatto & Windus. £15.99. 140pp

themselves into memory. It is Plato's task to shape

into contemplatable form. He addresses his fellow beings, who seem both corporeal and consubstantial with angels, and who cannot understand how their ancestors could survive imprisoned within three dimensions and tied to time. Through dialogues and orations – both cunningly similar to our own Platonic discourses - he focuses attention on the terrible centuries of Mouldwarp, when humans lived on a constricted ball of Earth surrounded by imaginary stars. He explicates a novel. "On

the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection, by Charles D—". Its quixotic hero, obsessed by "natural selection", seems to Plato a creation of genius on the part of Dickens, a perfect parody of the "blind pretensions" of Mouldwarp humanity, which deems itself the pinnacle of "evolution".

He analyses a "comic handbook" on the proper performance of jokes by the great pantomime artist. Sigmund Freud. He attempts to understand Mouldwarp London through a fragment of angelic moving images known only as the "Hitchcock Frenzy". He ica through an iconic figure known only as E A Poe, short for "Eminent American Poet" And he constructs a glossary of Mouldwarp terms ("sexist": a proponent of the notion that there were only two, or, at

most, three sexes"). For a space, then, The Plato Papers is an extremely funny exercise in the Martian-Sendsa-Postcard-Home mode; but the people of Mouldwarp - who have "been taught that they were the 'consumers' of the world" - do indeed inhabit something like Plato's Cave. Soon the stars and sun, which reflect from the walls of the cave intimations of humanity's dread imprisonment, go out. Only after mass anguish do the denizens understand they have been trapped under-

ground, and turn to the light. Plato himself, gadfly and romancer voyages to an inner cave, where he finds the London of Mouldwarp, which much resembles the urban-fantasy London created in previous books by Ackroyd, Iain Sinclair and other mythologists of the Stink. He returns, is tried for subversion, is found innocent; but leaves heaven anyway.

And The Plato Papers spins into dream. This dream is a velleity; but it is also too deep

Love in a cold climate

...but Michèle Roberts finds that another leading novelist has filled her fable of a new Ice Age with too many tracts, and not enough tension

DORIS LESSING'S previous two books were volumes of autobiography, enthralling and satisfying accounts of her life, loves and politics up to the early Sixties. They coloured in the background to the corr. lex person who so often seems to act as a sibyl for our times, foretelling the future with wildly inspired guesswork as though she had a third, magical ear pressed to the alarming ground. In fact, the sibylline divining is closely linked to hard study of our troubled century, to the posing of difficult questions, to her Sufi-style determination to look below the surface of our common-sense assumptions and winkle out what else might be

Lessing seems to define the zeitgeist as much as she describes it whatever her form. In this latest book she returns to fiction, to the sort of storytelling she refined in the Conopus in Argos: Archives series. In the early Eighties, she wrote science-fiction-cum-folktale account of a looming ice age, The Making of The Representative for Planet 8, and now she returns in Mara and Dann to that theme of the world threat-

ened with disaster. In her foreword, Lessing charmingly recounts how her is utterly assured and knowl-



Mara and Dann: an adventure by Doris Lessing Flamingo, £16.99, 407pp

that he had just been listening on the radio to a tale of an orphaned brother and sister who had all kinds of adventures, suffered a hundred vicissitudes, and ended up living happily ever after.

He suggested to her that she write something similar. Lessing, recognising the archetype of what she calls the oldest story in Europe (also found in most cultures right across the world), was able to reply that she was doing just that and had nearly finished it.

With this kind of global authority, the tone of her narrative son Peter came in to tell her edgeable. She describes the

novel as an attempt to imagine what some of the consequences might be when the next Ice Age begins, but her account has so successfully converted imagination into reality that there is little room for the reader to speculate, question or wonder. All you can do is sit back and accept what you are told.

Rather than feeling you are really embarking on an adventure, you sense that your role is to imbibe lessons. The narrator certainly knows the outcome and is always a few steps ahead. This is the novel as exposition, and it expounds some painful truths.

Lessing, wryly generous as ever, is well aware of how her audience may resent this: "Mara knew this resentment well: it was what people feel when being asked to take in too much that threatens their idea

of themselves, or their world". Most of the story is told from Mara's point of view. We follow her through war, enforced migration, famine, slavery, entrapment in a brothel, experiences of love and comradeship, to an ending that wraps up history lessons with hopes for the future.

Certainly, most of these motifs, as Lessing remarks, can be found in our world treasury of narratives, whether these are

saints' lives or fairy tales. The distinctive note is sounded by the slightly flat prose employed for the telling, which never alters in tone, by the structuring of the story through the reiteration of "and Mara saw", and by Lessing's sharp eye for human foibles and failings. With Mara, we learn to try to question our own ideas of intelligence and memory, to be more openminded to see things from other points of view.

Much as I admire Doris Lessing's work in general, I found this a difficult novel to read. This was partly because the story advances slowly, one lengthily described and detailed episode after another, with the plot seemingly based on the simple progression of events rather than being driven forward by the curiosity or desire of its protagonists.

Science fiction and fantasy are not my favourite genres. I am that resentful learner whom Lessing describes, resisting the leap of faith required. I am not, I regret, a good enough reader for this brave millennial novel, which I am sure will find the enthusiastic audience which it deserves.

Michele Roberts's new novel, Fair Exchange, is published by Little, Brown



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MEEKEND REVIEW

bolic victim who apparently evokes the horror of racial persecution and mass murder that person is Anne Frank. Yet this talented 15-year-old, who died Notes Diana let belong miserably in Bergen-Belsen nes that an end concentration camp two weeks before it was liberated, is an indisher might the k However appropriate representative. Nearly half of the Jews who perseemly been our fire ished due to Nazi policy were coffer dutaing her again to "chan her her shot to death in Eastern Europe. Two-thirds of victims E. Whose home The Committee came from the Yiddish-speakn of Diana is ing Jewish civilisation of Poland lacter in Norway rat, the Fundament Property these died of starvation, disease Sabitation area busined after impute to Mostly

or ill-treatment in the ghettos. By contrast, Anne Frank was born in Germany in 1929 and grew up mainly in Holland. where her family moved to escape persecution. Forced migration was difficult even for a bright, adaptable child, but Anne surmounted the chal-

IF THE Holocaust has one symagain by Nazi malevolence until as her older sister expired. summer 1941, a year after the Germans overran Holland. Nazi policy had tightened around the Dutch Jews and the refugees

forced out of her state school. When the Nazis began summoning Jews for "labour in the East", her father took his family into hiding; he had garnered enough information to make him fear the worst. Thanks to a team of courageous helpers, the family endured and Russia. About one tenth of until August 1944, when they turned from Auschwitz, the were betrayed. Anne, her sister. father and mother, were on the last train to Auschwitz from the Westerbork transit camp.

Having survived several months in Auschwitz-Birkenau, Anne - aiready weakened by hunger and hard labour died in Belsen from typhus. Separated from her parents, lenges. She was not touched she had watched helplessly

Anne's physical extinction alone, in agony, amid squalor and neglect, was typical and seems inexorable, but in other ways her experience was Like other Jews, Anne was anomalous. Her iconic status calls for explanation but these two books, which richly docu-

> Frank to deconstruct it. Otto Frank was a cosmopolitan, Liberal Jew. He never denied his Jewishness, but downplayed it. After he resole remnant of his family, he was surprised to discover from Anne's diary that in her last year she had become preoccupied with the suffering and mission of the Jews. This was one of the themes which he blurred in the process of editing it for publication and which he was content to see further diluted in successive editions

ment her life and death, depend

too much on the myth of Anne



Roses from the Earth: the biography of **Anne Frank**

by Carol Ann Lee Viking, £16.99, 297pp

and, above all, in the 1955 Broadway stage version that truly launched the diary. Reading early versions of the diary or seeing the film of the play, it is easy to miss the role of anti-Semitism in the persecution and the specific animus which the Nazis had for those who embodied Judaism.

Anne Frank has become symbolic of the victims of



Big messages from the small voice of truth

David Cesarani wonders why the bestselling record of one bright teenager's fate has come to stand for all the horrors of the Holocaust

Anne Frank: the biography by Melissa Müller

Bioomsbury, £16.99, 330pp

racism, but not all racism is the same. Each strand has its own etiology which needs to be understood for racism to be fought. Anne's fate offers only a partial explanation for the catastrophe that befell the Jews and, aside from banal generalisations, scarcely illuminates other varieties of racial or religious oppression.

If Anne was de-Judaised,

came the suffering child, the lamb of god whose death might redeem mankind in line with her own longing for a better world. She was also a very real child, an adolescent tormented by puberty, sibling rivalry and generational conflict.

Because her diary ended before the scabies of Auschwitz and the fecal swamp of Belsen, it was possible for teenagers around the world to identify just with her confinement ("Go to your room"), her anger, and her self-doubt. Fear of the unseen enemy and the abstract doom that awaited her prefigured the nuclear angst that plagued the children of the Cold War. It may not have been accidental to the appeal of the diary that Anne recorded a fear of bombing and the ominous sight of war planes overhead.

Adolescents today are more interested in sex and more

what did she represent? She be afraid of Aids than the bomb. For this reason, Anne Frank has been repackaged as "stylish", "vain" and "sexy", to quote Carol Ann Lee. For Melissa Müller she is "headstrong ...mercurial ...demanding ... possessive", as well as sexually curious; the very model of a modern teen. Both writers depict Anne as a proto-feminist,

determined to forge an independent life as a writer. Perhaps. Or maybe, had she had survived, she would like so many others have settled down with another survivor and had children to make up for the murdered thousands. Maybe she would have regarded a single-minded career as a betrayal of the need to reconstitute family, the kernel of Jewish life. We will never know, and for this reason Anne will remain the object of endless

projections and fantasies. We do know about her very

ordinary life until 1942, her astonishing flowering while concealed, and her brutal end. To their great credit, in telling Anne's story Lee and Müller contribute to educating another generation about one aspect of the Holocaust. Müller is surer on the historical context, but Lee gives more, often distressing detail.

Whatever their limitations, we must be grateful for the increasingly accurate and honest portrait they have produced, as against what Cynthia Ozick condemned as "the bowdlerised, distorted, transmuted, traduced, reduced, infantilised, Americanised, homogenised, sentimentalised, falsified, kitschified" versions of her life that once prevailed.

David Cesarani's recent biography of Arthur Koestler. The Homeless Mind', is published

Snob, liar, layabout - and a great writer. Sara Wheeler detests the man but still loves the books

Was he a genuine article?

raphy of a hugely influential modern writer, now published in 27 languages, who famously blurred the boundaries between fiction and non-fiction. As a writer, and as a human being, Bruce Chatwin was a maverick. One of his lovers, Miranda Rothschild, said that "He's out to seduce everybody, it doesn't matter if you are male, female, an ocelot or a tea cosy".

Chatwin presents a particular challenge to the biographer, as he worked ferociously hard to create a mythical persona only distantly related to himself. Under the circumstances, Nicholas Shakespeare has done a splendid job. An accomplished writer himself, he tells a gripping story - like his subject.

Adroitly manipulating the threads of Chatwin's life - "the uncanny good luck, the speedy in-and-out, the all-suggestive fragment, the speculative theory, the fascination with provenance and the origin of things" - Shakespeare describes books "cooking" in the writer's head, and conjures sentences like this one to portray Chatwin's prep school: "After the war, the shortage of well-trained teachers explained the presence of some characters who would have found a comfortable billet in Evelyn Waugh's Llanaba."

The text rattles along, its emotional highs and lows magnified by the author's eye for the dramatic moment. One chapter opens: "A little after 9.30pm on 15 October 1958, Sotheby's new chairman Peter Wilson raised his gavel to auction seven Impressionist masterpieces. He had staked his career on this moment...".

Often, though, I caught the whiff of the laundry list in these 550 pages of text. There are too many interpolated comments from the garrulous cast of walk-on parts who knew Chatwin. as if Shakespeare were determined to move as far as possible from his subject's elliptical, pared-down prose.

He is similarly heavy-handed with the background material: I was deeply uninterested in the brothers of Chatwin's prep school headmaster. I think this would have been a more successful book if, after the years of diligent research, Shakespeare had distilled the material down and down and down until Bruce Chaturin were half its present length.

Born in 1940 in a suburb of Sheffield to a middle-class family, his father "a wise old sailor and a sound lawyer", Charles Bruce Chatwin "was a typical war baby, coddled by an anxious mother, fussed over by a team of elderly, mostly female, relatives for whom he was the hope of the tribe." After public school, he became a



Bruce Chatwin: laying a trail of myth to lead admirers up the garden path

at university to read archaeology and flunked out, became another star at The Sunday Times, abandoned that too and then wrote some very, very

Chatwin was an uneasy bisexual, married once ("to stop myself going mad"). He had no children although he wanted to, and went to absurd lengths to conceal the fact that he had Aids. He never settled anywhere and had unusual habits, like sitting on the toilet and defecating with the door open, no matter who might already be in the bathroom. At the end of his life, he converted to Greek Orthodoxy.

What an unattractive creature Bruce Chatwin was! We learn that he "never tolerated being teased", that he liked posh people, that he never washed up in 23 years of marriage and that once, when he and his wife arrived at a restaurant with Sunday Times cronies to discover there wasn't a table big enough for them. Chatwin told his wife to clear off. (She did.)

His lover Jasper Conran said, "Probably there was no one Bruce loved more than himself." He was horbright star at Sotheby's, enrolled late ribly affected. At Sotheby's, he liked

Bruce Chatwin by Nicholas Shakespeare Harvill, £20, 591pp

to go around pronouncing this and that to be a fake. Many of his colleagues thought Bruce Chatwin himself was a bit of a fake; and Anthony Powell wrote in his diary that "I always feel there was something a bit phoney about Chatwin".

He worked fantastically hard at the myth-making, desperate to make himself fascinating. The individual details are trivial. Who cares if he told people that his dad had to sell a Stradivarius to pay the school fees? But they add up to a failed person. As Shakespeare's chapters unfurled. I was so repelled by this handsome man that

I began, irrationally, to wonder if the books can really be that good after all. So I re-read his first travel book, In

Patagonia, went straight on to the novel Utz, and reassured myself. He was a great writer, and his stories put a torch to the imagination. His prose is cold: knuckle-hard. "In the complete works of Bruce Chatwin," comments Salman Rushdie, "there is not a loving fuck." Yet the warm person whom Rushdie perceived behind this sepulchral prose does not leap from Shakespeare's pages. Chatwin charmed many people, but it is difficult to convey charm on a page. Words are too coarse a medium.

Did the biographer succumb to the myth? He opens the very first chapter with the Chatwin quotation: He was all things". Well, so are we all. in our way. Shakespeare regurgitates some pretty unpalatable comments. Professor Zampini. for example, who knew Chatwin when he was in Patagonia, says that the writer was "in the tradition of Drake, Cavendish, Darwin, Bridges. For a long time the only way to be universal was to be English."

"He was a Rupert Brooke," says James Ivory. I don't think so. But, at other moments. Chatwin springs to life like a mosaic splashed with water.

Shakesneare does not recoil from the personal failures, and he tries to decipher the man behind the masks. He thinks that Chatwin's ambivalence about his sexuality and his fear of Aids were bound up in the same energies which drove him to travel and to write: "a case, perhaps, of a deficiency on one side of the balance producing the fruit of the other". (Others have called Chatwin a moral coward.)

It is so difficult to have any sense of another person's inner life, but in this vastly enjoyable book Shakespeare successfully shines the beams of his torch onto a psychic landscape peopled by the fearful monsters that Chatwin kept mostly at bay by continually moving and reinventing himself. His brother Hugh reckons that about 60 per cent of the content of the books is true. "It was the story that counted," he told Shakespeare.

Sara Wheeler is the author of Terra Incognita (Vintage)

From chariots of wire to Starship Kurt

Liz Jensen says that weird fiction should stay within a human orbit

ALL SPACE is jism! We are living on an outwardly expanding explosion, the Great Pan-Galactic Spunk Explosion, the Wave Crest of my Sexual Emissions. Praise be to me!" Thus Japs Eye Fontanelle, aka Zizo Yasuzawa, aka the Creator of the Universe, aka a dozen other aliases, hero of Bo Fowler's The Astrological Diary of God.

Fowler's first novel, Scepticism Inc. took a shopping trolley as its inanimate hero. queuing up at the checkout behind Tibor Fischer's Etruscan vase (The Collector Collector). Now, chariots of wire behind him. Fowler's second foray to the outer limits of the human imagination charts the zodiacinfested life and times of a Japanese ex-kamikaze pilot who has been put on trial for the killing of Time. As befits a writer under the double influence of Star Trek and Kurt Vonnegut, Fowler's mission seems clear: to seek out new fictional worlds, and to boldly go where no storyteller has gone before.

What a wacky guy Japs Eye Fontanelle the Thrice Great One is. He has a hole in his head, thanks to a collision with a giant golden phallus. He has no testicles (accidental castration by astrolabe). He also suffers from a verbal tic which forces him to switch bafflingly between first and third-person narration, as in "God has often wondered about that myself".

God's story follows the chronology of a life spanning birth to the present day via the Second World War, in which he recalls his discovery of Astrology, his realisation that he is the deity, and the ups and downs of his celestial tackle. As a world class masturbator with a worldclass ego, Zodiac Man is convinced he is spawning galaxies from his ejaculate. He woos the glamorous "paraspermologist" who investigates the star-spangled spunkorama which is the product of his orgasms.

Then, woe of woes, Japs loses his Celestial Balls. Meanwhile the UN has labelled him, in his role as God, as Public Enemy Number One. So he's put on trial ... You get the gist.



The Astrological Diary of God by Bo Fowler Jonathan Cape, £10, 296pp

Although Fowler makes a brave attempt to pull it all together at the end, it's too little, too late: the star ship has long since spiralled off on its own re lentless and strangely mirthless exercise in kookiness, sucked into the black hole called Weird. Weird can be good. Weird can be funny. But weird for weird's sake is a dismal thing to behold, and in The Astrological Diary of God, we behold it at length. As any star-fleet captain can tell you, inter-galactic explorers run risks. The greatest being the loss of the very thing that sent them hurtling through

space: their humanity. Like Vonnegut, Fowler has a dexterity with the running gag "Virgo women are vegetarians, and are turned on by hotel rooms and boxer shorts. Their lucky soup is tomato") and a penchant for facts and figures. But he has neither the heart, the soul, the storytelling genius nor the sheer anger of Vonnegut - only the technical mastery of the devoted mimic.

If Bo Fowler were a bad writer with no talent, none of this would matter But he is clever, and he can also be funny. Importantly, he has ideas, too. Perhaps when he has the courage and confidence to cast off his Kurt Vonnegut outfit, the true Bo Fowler will reveal himself. Then, I suspect, we will see something interesting and exciting emerge.

In the meantime, girls, we must content ourselves with the photograph of his genitalia on

Warp factor ten.

"IT WAS a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen." April has opened warmer this year than in Nineteen Eighty-Four, but that evergreen dystopia still sounds - 50 years after its publication as hot as today's headlines. A Nato spokesman damna Serb attempts to erase the written records of Kosovar Albanians as "Orwellian": and we know exactly what he means. Equally, sceptics could save the epithet for a long-distance media war waged by "Airstrip One" against a dimly-grasped

corner of "Eurasia" Strenge to recall the time when critics thought that the passing of 1984 - and then of the Cold War - might draw the sting from Orwell's masterpiece. In the event, the novel shed its

A WEEK IN **BOOKS**



BOYD TONKIN British writers love their Wonderlands

geopolitical birthmarks to emerge as a timeless admonition, not a footnote to an age. (Meanwhile, the "Pornosec", which massproduces cheap smut for the proles, now calls itself "Channel 5".) To mark its 50th anniversary, Secker & Warburg has issued a lavish new edition (£20) tricked out with trendy typography and brooding illustrations -Nineteen Eighty-Four as a consumer fetish, the sort of bizarre notion that Honest George might blame on sandal-shod vegetarians.

Yet a book that withstood both Stalinist fury and freemarket fatuity (when the US Book of the Month Club tried to cut out Orwell's theoretical sections) can survive our designer cult. And so can the loose but lively genre, of prophetic or satirical fantasy, to which it belongs. Utopian, dystopian, or any station in between mutant worlds now bloom more fiercely than ever in the wild garden of fiction. Look at the new novels discussed on this pair of

pages: Peter Ackroyd spies

on London from a vantagepoint two millennia away: Doris Lessing inspects love and hate through the prism of the next Ice Age; Bo Fowler plumbs cosmic mysteries via an immortal kamikaze... Remember, too, that Salman Rushdie's The Ground Beneath Her Feet takes place not in our world but in a parallel universe: a looking-glass zone where British troops fight the "Indochina" war, crooked "Colonel" Presley exploits sexy Jesse Parker, and Lee

Harvey Oswald's rifle jams. So beware the next critic who pretends that British fiction flows serenely down a naturalistic stream. Gulliver's Travels boasts as strong a claim to found a Great Tradition as Tom Jones. And that tradition, of free-style fable and bold.

speculative satire, has never failed to thrive. This week, Penguin releases an off-the-wall parable called Flatland. It slyly sends up class-bound, misogynist Britain as a - literally - twodimensional society where the low-status "Irregular" shapes aspire to join the "Circular" elite. In the final days of 1999, these poor flattened figures dream of the Third Dimension and a "millennial revelation".

A drug-assisted fantasy from some ultra-hip young newcomer? Not quite. Flatland, an inspired rediscovery, appears in the Penguin Classics list (25.99). Edwin A Abbott, the head of City of London School, first published it in - 1884. Perhaps those fictive clocks romantic. have been striking 13 for longer than we thought.

INSPIRATIONS NOVELIST HELEN ZAHAVI

The music For years I've been listening to Edith Piat. especially "Je ne regrette rien". It always lifts my spirits, even though it's not true in my case. I regret everything.

The place I spent several years in Brighton, which inspired Dirty Weekend. It has those three essentials for an interesting life: Regency architecture, a listed pier, a thriving underworld. It's cultured, vibrant, seedy,



The film The Godfather II is the movie I find most hypnotic and disturbing. I knew a man who shared the methods and guile of Al Pacino's character. Every time I watch, I feel a shiver of recognition.

The artwork When I was seven I was given a book of Van Gogh. I have never forgotten the Café Terrace at Night. I wanted to sit in that pool of soft light; so I moved to Paris. Then I discovered he painted it in Arles.

The play Joshua School's Ghetto, for its emotion and spectacle, and because that night I rekindled a broken friendship. We happened to take adjacent seats, and all was forgiven.

Donna and the Fatman' is published by Anchor

All sweetness and light in the new Brief Encounter'

Michael Arditti strikes a sceptical note amid the tugged heartstrings of a lush romance



An Equal Music by Vikram Seth Phoenix House, £15.99, 382pp

VIKRAM SETH'S A Suitable Boy was both praised and condemned for its old-fashioned narrative, style and concerns. The novel's ambition lay primarily in its scope: a vast panorama of life on the Indian subcontinent. It has enjoyed international success with readers who find reassurance in Seth's firm authorial grip on such a wide-ranging story.

An Equal Music will meet with an

equal measure of bouquets and brickbats. It would take a far harder heart than mine not to respond to the doomed love of its principal characters. but it would take a far less critical mind not to decry the totally unchallenging nature of Seth's universe, in which there are no complex ideas or motives, and no malevolent forces. Character is fate and that character is essentially benign. With its lush romance in glamorous settings, this is a novel for those who loved the movie of The English Patient rather than the book.

Therein lies the problem: An Equal Music has Hollywood written all over it. Michael, a sensitive young violinist (one of the Fiennes brothers?) meets Julia, a beautiful half-Austrian pianist (Juliette Binoche?), in Vienna while studying under crusty Swedish genius Carl Kall (Max von Sydow?). Ignoring Carl's instruction that he pursue a solo career, he forms a trio with Julia and her friend, Maria. But he loses both lover and trio when, under pressure from Carl and an unexplained finger injury, he flees Vienna without a word to Julia, with whom he subsequently

Ten years on, Michael, now 37, is second violinist in the up-and-coming Maggiore quartet, a part-time teacher engaged in a desultory affair with Virginie, one of his students, and a member of the Water Serpents, a group of hardy eccentrics who swim all year round in the Serpentine. His settled existence is shattered when he catches sight of Julia on a bus in Oxford Street. Although he fails to make con-



Banishing all discord from his four-part invention: Vikram Seth

and their romance is gradually rekindled. Her circumstances, however, have changed. She has a husband, a child and, as later becomes clear, a severe loss of hearing. When playing with other musicians, she is dependent, Evelyn Glennie-like, on the vibrations

The rest of the novel charts the progress of Michael and Julia's affair in London, Vienna and Venice: its effect on Julia's domestic life, in particular on her husband James, who may be growing suspicious, and on Michael's professional life and his role within the quartet (itself "an odd quadripartite marriage").

Julia betrays James, but Michael also betrays his colleagues by saying

after a concert at the Wigmore Hall, joins them as accompanist. In the end, one of the marriages is sustained, while the other (at least temporarily) breaks down.

Although a third of the length of A Suitable Boy, An Equal Music is a leisurely read, containing many passages, for instance the account of the Water Serpents, which add to the texture rather than to the meaning of the book. The dialogue, particularly the bickering within the quartet, is beautifully caught, and the descriptive writing, whether of a Carpaccio painting in the Scuola di San Giorgio or a sponsored walk between Blackpool and Rochdale, is extremely accomplished. The prose, however, while always fluent, is never arresting.

Several sections are devoted to

Seth declares in an afterword that of the novel lie in its decency. Seth es-"Music is dearer to me even than speech" and it is clear that he knows his quartets. One example, in which he analyses the second violin, must stand for many: "Its role is different, not lesser: more interesting, because more versatile. Sometimes, like the viola, it is at the textual heart of the quartet; at others it sings with a lyricism equal to that of the first violin, but in a darker and more difficult register." And yet, unlike Proust with the Vinteuil sonata, or Ian McEwan in Amsterdam, Seth fails in the more exacting task of conveying music's effect. Reviewers were provided with tapes featuring extracts from key pieces - a privilege not accorded to the

general reader.

chews all that is dark and dangerous. Julia deals with her deafness by counting her blessings and insisting it fosters originality. Michael breaks up with Virginie cleanly, on the phone; what she may feel is muffled, as she immediately disappears from view. His visit to a prostitute is decorous; his loss of his violin is averted; his breakdowns are momentary. Even his one outburst of violence is contained and quickly forgiven. As Julia returns to her husband and son and Michael to his violin, the true nature of the novel becomes clear.

This is a Brief Encounter for the Nineties, albeit with Bach and Schubert substituted for Rachmaninov, and played by the protagonists rather

They've been framed in cartoon land

Nicolette Jones laughs at and learns from a comic strip of small-town life

RIVERBANK, NEW Jersey, the setting of this novel, is a nowheresville with one claim to fame. It is the home of The Family Funnies, a weekly cartoon of cute episodes from domestic life penned by local resident Carl Mix. Every year, in celebration, the town has a Funny Fest, which the mayor launches by shedding his suit and jumping into the river.

Neither the domestic life on which the cartoons are based, nor the festivities, have been very funny for Carl Mix's real family. Four of his five children hate him; only the youngest missed some of the tyrannies that alienated the others. His wife, driven to it by constant portrayals as stupid in the strips, drank and precipitated senility; now in a home, she intermittently recognises her children. The strip sanitises their experiences, implicitly criticising them for the way they fall short of their cartoon counterparts, and condemning all but one to the burden of whimsical alter egos. The third child, Pierce, is subject to the even greater indignity of never appearing in the cartoons at all. He is rejected by his father, and suffers from schizophrenia.

When Carl dies, only the youngest weeps at his funeral But Carl's will changes the life of his fourth child, Tim, the protagonist of the novel. His father's legacy causes him to abandon his "career" as an artist who makes installations that are facsimiles of the garbage on the streets, and come round to thinking that bringing the stuff indoors does not stop it from being garbage. He leaves his home and girlfriend. He learns a new craft, finds a new relationship, and goes some way to bridging the gaps in his family.

Slowly, his loathed father's posthumous authority saves his life. And slowly Tim learns some modicum of grudging respect for the man's talent, if not his nature.

which the prose strikes no



by J Robert Lennon Granta, £9.99, 301pp

tlety and depth reside in the accumulation of carefully observed detail. Of, for instance, Tim's frightful elder brother Bobby, who works in waste disposal and whose compulsion to tidy up makes him pretend to the rest of the family that his father asked to be cremated. Of the sinister Carl Mix fan Ken Dorn, who lurks like Humbert Humbert's Quilty on the edge of the action, threatening to be Tim's neme-sis. Of Carl's frail widow Dot, remembering her husband in flashes of pain. Of Brad, Carl's friend, an unfulfilled, reclusive genius and the mentor who guides Tim into his new future. Of Tim's Uncle Mal, who dyes his hair but cannot disguise his own loneliness. And of the variously vacant or venal bureaucrats that run Carl 's publishing house and his

home town Added together, the details make for a poignant, wry novel, with laugh-out-loud moments; a tale of romance, hurt, hope and disillusion, building to an unexpected denouement of revelation. It is infused with Carl's presence, though he is dead before the story begins, and with a wonderful sense of place: the small-minded small towns of New Jersey.

The strength of Carl Mix's cartoons is that they are not exaggerated caricatures, but reductions, distillations of the essence of characters summarised in telling strokes. Lennon's novel is like this. with all the lines right. What spoils Mix's work is the blandness and falsehood of the do-All this is written with a mesticity it portrays. Lennon's spare, Carveresque clarity, in portrait of domesticity is the opposite: stinging, unsenti-

SPOKEN WORD BY CHRISTINA HARDYMENT



Gormenghast Trilogy Read by Michael Williams Penguin, 16hrs total, £11.99. £11.99, £8.99

MERVYN PEAKE'S exhilaratingly rich prose lends itself superbly to spoken word. Penguin's release of the third part of his Gormenghast trilogy is an appropriate moment to celebrate Michael William's outstanding achievement in recreating the legendary world of crumbling carvings and mysterious shadows. Williams shifts accent and delivery to present the endless parade of gothic caricatures of human types with remarkable versatility. In Titus Groon, the scene of the stagnant world of the mighty House of Groan is set. In Gormenghast, the catalysts who will subvert it - Titus, Fuchsia and Steerpike come to the fore. Finally, in Titus Alone, our vulnerable but liberated hero sets out to try to survive without the ermine shroud of Groan.



Read by Bill Paterson Orion, 3hrs 20 mins. £8.99

ALMOST SHOCKINGLY modern in comparison, Ian Rankin's terse, vivid writing makes for equally compulsive listening, in a very different way. Dead Souls finds Detective Inspector Rebus on his usual Edinburgh patch, and now with quite a few pieces of emotional baggage clattering behind him. Most engrossing is the reappearance of his first flame, pleading for him to find her lost son and making him waver in his commitment to his over-busy doctor partner. Will she distract him from his real quarry, a sadistic psychopath? Bill Paterson is the perfect reader for this very Scottish, very modern thriller. All of Penguin's Rankin releases to date make for totally absorbing listening and will leave you happily resigned to the Easter

PAPERBACKS

BY EMMA HAGESTADT AND CHRISTOPHER HIRST

Midnight In Sicily by Peter Robb Harvill, £6.99,



WHERE BUT Sicily could inspire a book so rich in culture, gastronomy and wholesale murder? Resulting from this Aussie writer's 15-year stay in southern Italy, this impressionistic masterpiece is replete with chilling frissons, such as Robb's brush with a top Mafiosc in the bloody village of Corleone. But Sicily also produced Lampedusa, incomparable author of The Leopard. Robb writes wonderfully about the island's intensely flavoured cuisine - though he is incorrect to say that a sauce was made from the "cruciform lines of golden eggs" of the sea-urchin. It is the creature's ovaries.

South, Looking North by Ariel Dorfman, Sceptre, £7.99,



PASSIONATE AND cerebral, this electrifying autobiography is reminiscent of the literature which emerged from the Resistance. Torn between America and Chile in his youth. Dorfman plumped for a career as a writer in Spanish - only to find his own land brutalised by Pinochet. An associate of Allende, he escaped death by a hair's breadth. But only when his wife was (briefly) snatched by Pinochet's agents did Dorfman realise "the irreversible reality of the evil that had visited us". America provided a haven to write this uplifting study of identity, but Chile feeds his creative wellsprings.

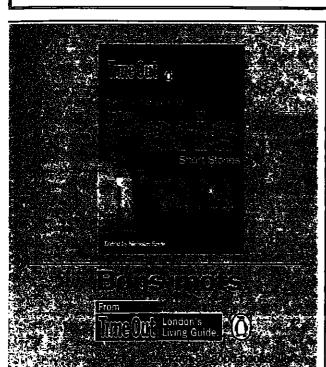
The Spirit Wrestlers by Philip Marsden. Flamingo, £6.99,

A MODERN Marco Polo, Philip Marsden has returned from the fringes of Russia with an enthralling account of the exotic sects who survived persecutions from Peter the Great to the Soviet era. On the steppes, he meets the Doukhobors or spirit-wrestlers, and the Molokans or milk-drinkers ("As newborn babes," said St Peter, "desire the sincere milk of the word"). In the Caucasus, he encounters longevity (the secret is pomegranates, walnuts, and regular sex). In Armenia, he finds the Yezidis, who worship a fallen angel. But Marsden admits that Russia's greatest religion is alcohol.

the Queen by Alison Weir, Pimlico, £8.99. 532pp



WHEN BRITAIN'S greatest monarch took the throne, England was rent by religion and massively in debt. When she died, 45 years later, the country was unified and one of the greatest powers in Europe. Steely in her resolve - she was not averse to use of torture – Elizabeth promoted her image as the Virgin Queen wed to the nation, yet secured the loyalty of courtiers by calculated flirting. Weir's riveting narrative is assisted by the language of the era and the Elizabethan love of intrigue. Her final pages are enlivened by Essex's failed coup, prompted by the loss of his sweet wine monopoly.





From this week the **Shopping and Design pages have** moved to the **Weekend Review** TURN TO PAGE 17

NEW AUTHORS PUBLISH YOUR WORK ALL SUBJECTS CONSIDERED AUTHORS WORLDWIDE INVITED RITE OR SEND YOUR MANUSCRIPT

MINERVA PRESS 2 OLD BROMPTON RD. LONDON SW7

The Short History of a **Prince** by Jane Hamilton. Block Swan, £6.99,

JANE HAMILTON'S shrewd, Anne Tylerish portraits of American family life are usually tinged by tragedy. In this, her third novel, we meet Walter McCloud, a self-absorbed teenager whose obsession with dance – he's a not very good ballet dancer - and his developing sexuality make him oblivious to the fact that his older brother is dying from cancer. Toe-curling descriptions of Walter's most painful pubescent moments (his starring role in a small town production of the The Nutcracker and being caught in flagrante by the parents) offset the book's more mawkish tendencies.

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Breakfast on Pluto by Patrick McCabe, Picador, £6.99,

VIEWED THROUGH the kohl-rimmed eyes of a transvestite prostitute, life in Seventies Northern Ireland is even bleaker that you might suppose. Related in an explosion of exclamative camp ("Oh bomber!") and ironic back-handers, "Pussy" Braden describes his progress from small-town freak to West End prostitute. While his schoolmates plot to blow up Fortnum and Mason, Pussy plies an even more dangerous trade. As frenetic and funny a read as McCabe's best-known novels, The Butcher's Boy and The Dead School. Shortlisted for last year's Booker Prize.

Red Tails in Love by Marie Winn Bloomsbury, £7.99,

INSCRUTABLE DOORMEN, celebrities and hokey sentimentality Wall Street Journal writer Marie Winn's "true life" account of how a rare red-tailed hawk started nesting on the top-floor balcony of a Fifth Avenue apartment block has all the ingredients of the perfect New York story. Watched by a nerdish band of Central Park twitchers, who also trained their binoculars on Woody Allen and Soon-Yi Previn's love-nest, the hawk went about his business dating a quick succession of females. only to go back to "First Love": a mature female with a big fluffy chest. The avian version of Sex in the City. In Praise of Lies by Patricia Melo, Bloomsbury. £10.99 187pp

JOSE GUBER writes potboilers for a living, pinching his stories from the works of Dostoyevsky, Chesterton and Poe. But when he meets and falls in love with Melissa, an expert on snake venom and serums, he finds himself living a lurid plot-line of his own invention. An enjoyable tongue-in-cheek thriller, Patricia Melo's story of how to commit the perfect murder is as refreshing for its exotic setting (the yuppier pizza joints of downtown São Paulo), as for its professionally depressed hero. the lugubrious José Guber. Some pointed swipes at the world of mass-





market publishing en route.

SD REVIEW mt. 3 April 1999

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COUNTRY & GARDEN

Dreams of the perfect garden

Easter weekend is the ideal time to visit one of the gardens open for charity, and to glean ideas for your own plot. By Anna Pavord



·I like to know it is there. Three-and-ahalf thousand different dreams are packed in this little paperback; three-and-a-half thousand interpretations of an ideal, private world. Just reading it, stuck in a traffic jam, keeps the blood pressure down. "Thousands of fritillaries" at The Coppice, Reigate, Surrey (open 14 April, 2pm-5pm, admission £2), "crown imperials, Victorian hyacinths and old primroses" at Netherhall Manor, Soham, Cambs (open tomorrow, 2pm-5pm, admission £1), "old oak wood with primroses and bluebells among giant boulders" (Higher Knowle, Lustleigh, Devon, open Easter Sunday and Monday, 2pm-6pm, admission £2.50).

On a visit, my antennae are wobbling like some crazed ant's. What do I learn from the approach to the garden? What wild trees and shrubs are growing? This gives some indication of the kind of soil to be found. Is the site sheltered or exposed? If exposed, how have the garden owners coped with it? Is this a garden where plants rule? Plantsmanship is a wonderful madness, but the best gardens always offer more than just a collection of plants.

Increasingly rare is a sense of timelessness in a garden. We live in a restless, fidgety age. To spend eight years in the same house is thought to be extraordinary. To have spent a lifetime there, unimaginable. But gardens benefit from owners who stay rooted in them. They take the long view. They plant trees. They understand

that gardening is a process, not a product. So it was a treat to amble through the churchyard of St Michael and All Angels, perched high on a rise above the river Thames at Clifton Hampden in Oxfordshire, and let myself into the garden of the Manor House. Christopher Gibbs, an antiques dealer, who has owned the place for the last 20 years, grew up here. He remembers his mother "always standing on her head in the borders. My father endlessly engaged with bonfires. We children splitting snowdrops. Me cutting branches of shrubs to decorate the house. My father consequently exploding with rage..."

The house, started in the 1840s, has the same fine, high position above the river as the church. The land drops steeply away to the south in a series of narrow terraces, finishing in a long, meandering walk along the river bank. From the vantage point of



Age cannot wither her... the garden at Clifton Hampden has benefited from being owned by the same family for 20 years

pergola, built of larch. Most structures of small your own garden may be, there are

you look out over river meadows to distant steeples. From the river bank, 40ft below, the view is veiled by skeins of willow and the knobby, dark fruit of alder, hanging alongside the season's fresh catkins.

A lot of fresh things have happened in here. But, understanding the spirit of the place so well, he has melted his new

additions seamlessly into the old. A local blacksmith made the wide iron frames for the new lime tunnel, which marches along beside the old herbaceous borders. Pools of blue scillas backed by white grape hyacinths lap across the path. Behind is lily this garden since Mr Gibbs returned to live of the valley. These are quiet effects, but

magic all the same. At the other end of the borders is a huge

this kind are flat-topped, but this one is broker; up by big, pointed towers. The effect is wonderfully eclectic, though I wouldn't like: to be the person who wobbles on a ladder tying in the roses up there.

"Oh, well, it's all very well, for him," you may mutter, with acres lapping out around the Clifton Hampden house. But however

always lessons to learn from the way other people do things. The lesson here is that you can scarcely ever think too big. Most of us think too small, and the smaller the garden, the bigger and bolder you

need to be to avoid fussiness, spottiness. As you might expect from a man whose business is antiques, the garden is well-

dressed with statues, busts and a stone fountain in a green room hedged with yew. Was it a temptation to keep pieces for himself rather than sell them? "Only the things that no one else would want," replied Mr Gibbs pragmatically. "The knee-capped Roman soldier, the headless Juno." Juno lies in the middle of the kitchen garden, couched on snowdrops.

This is a garden to roam through quietly. Look out for the magnificent multistemmed phillyrea leaning out over the river below the lawn. Admire the cedar of Lebanon grown from a seed brought back from the East by a great-uncle. Transport yourself to the tropics with the bromeliads in the greenhouse.

Though this is gardening on a scale that is now unusual, it is still a type of gardening that we understand: flower borders, vegetable garden, terraces to sit out on. Gardens made in the early 18th century. more than 100 years before the Gibbs came to Clifton Hampden, are more difficult to unpick. They may be unchanged, as is the garden around Shotover House at Wheatley, Oxfordshire, but we have changed so much, we cannot read them in the old way.

Partly, it is a matter of allusion. A landowner of the 18th century understood the culture of classical Greece and Rome almost as well as he did his own. The Grand Tour was an essential preamble to laying out an estate. Claude Lorrain's paintings provided the models for idealised landscapes made from the three classical el-

ements of water, wood and stone. So it is not surprising that when James Tyrell, who had fought with the Duke of Marlborough at Blenheim, started a new house and garden at Shotover in 1715, he should have looked to ancient Greece for inspiration. When he died three years

later, his son carried on the work. From the east front of the house you look down over gently sloping ground to a long canal with a Gothic temple at its end, perfectly reflected in the water. As you stand in the entrance porch on the west front, your eye is drawn on up the slope to a magnificent great obelisk, topped with a spiked ball. Walk to the obelisk, and you find the same straight vista running down a slope the other side to an eight-sided pond.

Think of this as an idealised landscape, rather than a garden. There is plenty to admire, especially trees: a weeping beech half masking the obelisk ancient oaks with stomachs fatter than Buddha's, elegant sweet chestnuts, long avenues of limes. For the moment, forget flowers. Think Arcadia.

The Manor House, Clifton Hampden, Orfordshire is open tomorrow only, 2.30pm-5.30pm. admission £2. Shotover House, Wheatley, Oxfordshire is also open to-

OTHER GARDENS TO VISIT AT EASTER

Glen Chantry, Wickham Bishops: unusual perennials, limestone rock garden, foliage borders. Tomorrow, 2pm-5pm, admission £1.50. Lower Dairy House, Nayland: spring bulbs, blossom, natural stream, waterside plantings. Tomorrow and Monday, 2pm-6pm, admission £2. GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Beverston Castle, near Tetbury: moat, kitchen garden and orchid-filled greenhouses. Today, 2pm-6pm and tomorrow, 11am-6pm, admission £1.50. Cinderdine Cottage, Dymock, near Newent: hellebores, pulmonarias. Today and tomorrow. 12pm-5pm. admission £1.50.

HAMPSHIRE

Bramdean House, Bramdean: sixacre garden with matching herbaceous borders, spring bulbs. Today and tomorrow, 2pm-5pm, admission £2.50. Fairfield House, Hambleden:

informal layout with fine trees and wildflower meadow. The garden is open t oday only, 2pm-6pm, admission £2. HEREFORDSHIRE

Newcote, Moccas: exotic trees, water garden, new formal garden with fountain. Open today, 2pm-6pm. admission £1.50

LONDON The Chelsea Physic Garden: the second oldest botanic garden in the country, four secret acres tucked away

off Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea. Tomorrow, 2pm-6pm, admission £4. 15 Lawrence Street, SW3: 12 different camellias and spring bulbs in a small town garden. Tomorrow, 2pm-6pm, admission £1. SUSSEX

Five Oaks Cottage, West Burton: uncommon plants, organic vegetable plot and plantings to attract wildlife. Today and tomorrow, 2pm-5pm, admission £1.50

WEEKEND Work



NEW SPEARS of hosta foliage will need protecting against slugs. Polyanthus flowers are also getting chewed. Between slugs and sparrows they have a hard time, Black cotton stretched between twigs foxes birds, but is a fiddly bore to set up.

PLANT SWEET peas if you did not do so in autumn or winter. Set three seeds in a four-inch pot, if you want to do it the lazy way. At



planting-out time, you can just tip out the pot and plant the seedlings as they are, together.

THIN OUT flowering shoots of mophead and lacecap hydrangeas, cutting a few of the scraggier stems out at ground level. This makes them produce larger flowerheads.

FRESHLY PLANTED evergreens may need a temporary screen around them to prevent the foliage from drying out and browning. Some evergreens recover better than others. Yew can look very sick and still recover. Cypress is not so forgiving.

WELL-SPROUTED early potatoes can be planted where the ground is not too soggy. I am still waiting for my onion bed to dry out sufficiently for planting. Planting is three weeks behind last season. Broad beans, parsnips and peas are all still waiting for the right conditions.

In Flanders fields the poppies grew ...

Wild flowers may be a farmer's nightmare but they are a gardener's dream, because they'll grow almost anywhere. By Ursula Buchan

ONE OF the most visible consequences of superefficient arable farming in this country is the wholesale decline of native annual cornfield "weeds".

Those of us who do not have to try to make a living out of farming, wring our hands at the widespread disappearance of some of the most colourful of all our native plants, such as the corn cockie, corn marigold, cornflower and field poppy.

They are victims, as we see it, of the use of selective herbicides, which leave cereals unharmed but kill broadleaved weeds that grow in the same conditions.

In days gone by, before scientists developed such devastatingly effective means of controlling weeds, there was as much wringing of hands about the way these weeds adulterated crops and reduced yield.

John Clare, the 19th-century rural poet, referred to the yellow corn marigold and the blue cornflower as "troubling the cornfields with their destroying beauty". The truth is that these plants, having evolved in our climate and soils, are first-rate colonisers, when given a chance.

The seed of one of the prettiest, the corn cockle, will remain viable for only one season, it is true, but that of the common field poppy (a flower that thrives best in disturbed ground) can survive inert in the ground for a centary or more.

The enduring memory of Flanders for the soldiers of the First World War was the bloodred field poppy, which bloomed profligately in the fields once they had been blown apart by shells.



Farmers cannot go back to 19th-century agriculture, however attractive it may seem at this distance in time, but gardeners can do their bit to promote the colourful annual wild flowers of the fields, and the hees, butterflies and other insects that feed on them.

Cornfield annuals do not need a deep, rich soil; far from it. They are best grown in a light soil in full sun.

Any odd place will do for a mixture of annual cornfield flowers: a narrow, difficult border with rubbly soil under a south-facing window; or a shallow container that does not suit bedding plants well; or an expanse of gravel that seems to nurture herb robert and sow thistle well enough. It may even be fun to try tickling a few of these seeds

into the earthy spaces between paving stones.

To create the greatest impact, I would choose a piece of fallow ground (perhaps an area you wish to plant up permanently in the autumn, or a sparsely planted part of an established border) which you can clear of weeds, rake over neatly and sow thickly with any or all of the following: com cockle (red and purple); corn marigold (deep butter-yellow. long-lasting); cornflower (deep blue); chamomile

(scented, white and yellow); scentless mayweed (white and yellow); scarlet pimpernel; and common fumitory (mauve). After that, simply rake over the soil lightly at right angles to the first raking. This mini-comfield, without the corn, will look fine the first summer (for these are annuals that must not tarry), but the flowers will self-seed generously too, so you need do little more than thin out seedlings, and remove real

weeds. in later years. Many seedsmen sell wildflower seed mixtures by mail order, or you can find them on the shelves of garden centres. Unwins make the business even simpler by putting their "English Wildflower Mixture" in a brightly coloured seed shaker (£3.99), similar to the kind that holds sea salt. The 10 grams of seed is

mixed with 50 grams of horticultural vermiculite to ensure more even distribution when the seed is scattered. The "farmers' nightmare" can become the gardener's pleas-

CUTTINGS

NEWS FROM THE GARDENERS' WORLD

HIPPEASTRUMS (WHICH I still call amaryllis) were wildly popular with our children when they were small. The flowers are vast, sometimes 10in across, held on massively thick stalks up to 3ft high. The bulbs are like footballs. The growth, for impatient gardeners, is satisfyingly rapid. I still love them. though I can't always get the bulbs to flower again after their gargantuan initial explosions. Kew celebrates these 0181-332 5622.

tropical-looking beasts with a festival this month, lasting until 30 April. There is a big display of the

cvlinder

flowers in the Princess of Wales conservatory and other examples to be found in the Temperate House and the Alpine House. The artist Sue Mason is showing paintings of the genus and Veronica Read. who holds the National Collection of hippeastrums will be lecturing about them at Kew on 7 and 20 April (2pm). The admission fee for the lecture is £4. For further information about the festival, call Kew on

THE CLEVELAND branch of the Alpine Garden Society is holding a show

today (12pm-4.30pm) at the Ian Ramsey Church of England School, North Site. Green's Lane, Fairfield, Stockton-on-Tees. Primulas, cyclamen, fritillaries and other dwarf treasures will be on show. Meanwhile, the south-west section of the AGS is also holding its show today (12noon-1.15pm) at the Great Hall, Dartington Hall, Dartington, Devon. Look out for saxifrages, sempervivums, hardy ferns, baby narcissus and miniature gardens planted in containers scarcely bigger than a tea plate. ANNA PAVORD

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A giant leap from farming

COUNTRY



DUFF HART-DAVIS

n Friday, a posse of neighbours will assemble at Fforest Farm, near the Powys village of Hundred House, for an auction of this year's grass keep. The owner, George Barstow, will let almost all his 430 acres of grazing to the highest bidders, who will then have the right to run their sheep and cattle on his fields until the autumn. His only responsibilities will be to keep the fences in order and to maintain the grass by occasional topping and re-fertilising.

On paper, the arrangement sounds like money for jam; but in fact it is a last resort, a product of the pressures that have been gradually grinding hill farmers down, and represents a traumatic shift away from tradition. After trying long and hard to keep affoat by normal methods, George has finally decided to give up farming animals and concentrate on farming people.

His parents bought the farm in 1947, and over the years did a tremendous amount to improve it, draining fields, putting in roads and planting trees primarily for shelter. Yet the land will never be anything but high, cold and wet: it rises from 700ft to more than 1,200ft, the annual rainfall is more than 40in, and the soil is poor and thin.

When George and his wife Katie took over in 1978, they inherited a fine herd of pedigree Welsh Black cattle and a medium-sized flock of North Country Cheviot sheep. The farm was then employing three people, and, to make any sort of a living for themselves, the couple had to increase output. This they did by putting Blue-Faced Leicester rams on to their North Country Cheviot ewes, which yielded more prolific ewes known as "mules", capable of producing large lambs.

For a while things went well. As George puts it, they "farmed quite hard" and built their flock up to 1,400 ewes. Yet throughout the Eighties labour costs kept rising, while real enough profit to keep on his paid

ed to branch out into a new venture. a caravan park and camp site - so he sold all the cattle and more than two-thirds of the sheep. The proceeds paid off the overdraft and enabled him to start again.

draft creeping up and up, he decid-

Luckily he had an ideal field, close to the main road but hidden from it by a rise in the land, and with a view of the surrounding hills. In creating the site he did much of the work himself, but even so the cost was such that he had to take out a new loan from the bank.

Business was slow at first; and while it was picking up, he built his sheep flock back to 1,300 head. But income fell. George himself was his problems increased when the steepness of the terrain. The mounworking like a slave, and never Government changed its system of knew whether he was going to make support, from intervention payments – which virtually guaranteed a price for good, heavy lambs - Down this precipitous face a narrow had they taken the decision when the summer the fields will still be grazed

The aim was to help farmers stay on the land, and keep the whole system going; but the obvious reaction of the recipients was to increase the number of sheep on their ground.

Jumping off the Gwars, the gliding club Paramania make full use of George Barstow's land

Even with a substantial subsidy. Fforest Farm was still barely paying its way; but George and Katie, unlike many landowners, found that they positively enjoyed entertaining the public on their property - and so, when the Builth and District Cycling Club asked about the possibility of holding races for mountain-bike riders on their land, they welcomed the overture.

For bikers, the attraction is the

subsidies on every female animal. the wood; an official of the club describes the route as "awesome", and so popular has it become that it is used as one of the sites for the National Points series. Last year more than 800 competitors came and camped for the event.

It was the terrain that gave George yet another idea. He saw that the fields on top of the steep bank, known collectively as the Gwars, would make an ideal launch-point for paragliders, and two years ago he took over Paramania, a locally based gliding-school.

Still, he was working all-out on the farm and making only just enough fect become a park keeper running to pay the wages of a single man. an entertainment business. Does he Was it worth the struggle? He and mind? Not too much. It is an imtain behind the caravan site rises Katie decided not. Last year they 500ft at an angle of at least one in came to the conclusion that they two, probably one-in-one in places. should sell all their sheep. Hardly in EC policy. His land is tidy, and all Then in 1989, with the farm over- to headage payments, which are course now twists and turns through market collapsed, mainly because of by sheep. He is proud of the way that

scares that sheep, like cattle, could carry BSE. "At one stage," George says, "animals were going not for £1 a head, but 40 to the pound - if you didn't have to pay someone to take them away.

He kept his nerve and went through with the sale, and in the event it turned out pretty well, because his 1,400 ewes looked so good. All the same, he recalls, it was "a heart-wrenching day, because you can't farm animals without liking them, and I was quite proud of the whole bunch".

Now, with no stock, he has in efmense relief not to have to worry about fluctuations in the market and

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Rob Stratton

during his family's ownership of it. The paragliding school is now relocated at Fforest Farm, where, for £400 odd, and in stunning surroundings, you can turn yourself into a solo pilot after only 10 days' training from a professional instructor. A more thrilling arena could hardly be imagined, for friendly farmers in the hills around have granted the company access to launch-areas facing every point of the compass.

It remains to be seen whether or not George's new businesses will make him a living. But, whatever happens, he is glad that people in search of recreation in the countryside are enjoying themselves on his property.

Paramania is at Fforest Farm, Hundred House, Builth Wells, Powys, LD1 5RT (01982 570444)

NATURE NOTES

EVERY DAY now the sky above our valley intermittently comes alive with the strident "ark ark" of mandarin duck scudding away to nesting sites high up the river. One peculiarity of the species is that the ducks nest in holes in trees, and have feet prehensile enough for them to perch on branches. At this time of year they also alight on chimneypots, like jackdaws. as if assessing the possibility of nesting down in the flues.

The male mandarin is an exceedingly handsome fellow, with orange patches



on his cheeks, bright white above the eye, a crest of feathers protruding from the back of his head, and two further tufts rising like little fins on either side of his rump. The species was first brought to this country from the Far East early in the 18th ceritury, and its high colouring made it a favourite for ornamental lakes and ponds.

Oddly enough, although mandarins are declining in their original home, almost to the point of being endangered, they are flourishing here, and the British population is now thought to number more than 7,000. Most live south of the Thames, in counties like Sussex. Surrey and Hampshire, but there is also a colony at the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust at Slimbridge, on the Severn. and it is birds from there which come up-river to breed along the streams in the deep valleys of the Cotswold escarpment

DUFF HART-DAVIS

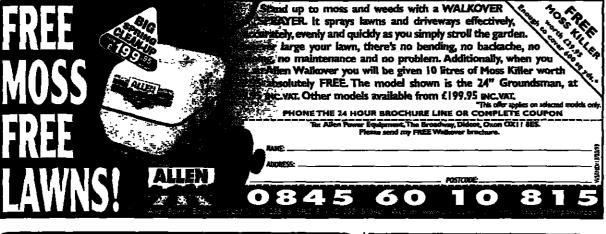


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EEKEND REVIEW

EVERY DAY now the se Shows our valley merminent, comes de with the strident are to of mandaru duch scudi may to nexting sites he up the river One Beauty of the species is the the ducks nest a base of and have (set preferate enough for them to see. brunnes At 12 5 1260 Pear they also willing chimneypate the packdag as if assessing the bossipility of nesting cosin the Burs

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DESIGN

Unexpected joys of recycling

'Old tat' is now cutting-edge design – at London's ICA By **Annabel** Freyberg

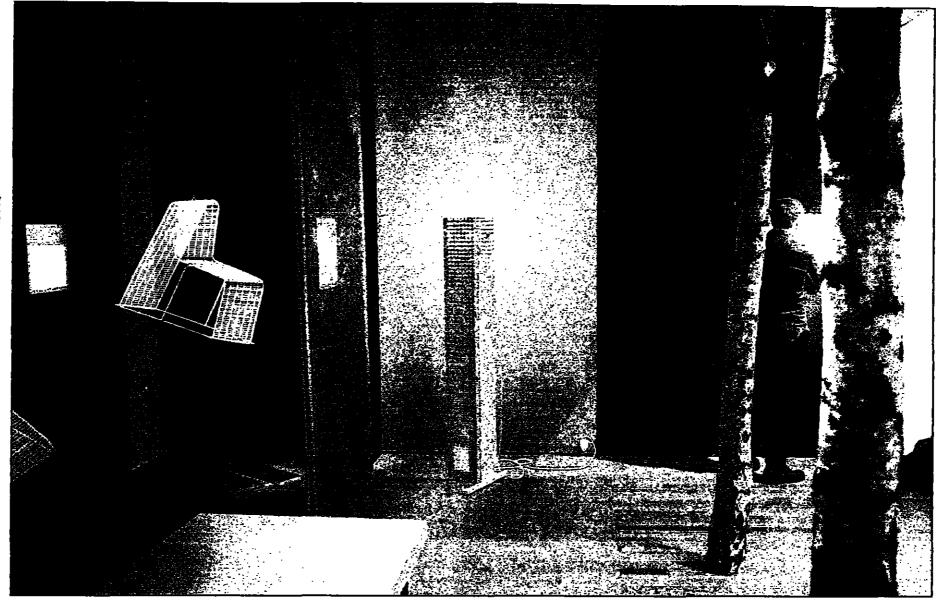
HANGING ALONGSIDE the work of each designer at the ICA's Stealing Beauty exhibition is a completed questionnaire on their influences. The answers are predictably jokey, clever-clever and occasionally bathetic: "Who/what has inspired you?" elicits responses including "Madonna", "Morecambe and Wise", "chaos", "animals" and "tutors". Every so often an answer really hits home: Fat (Fashion, Architecture, Taste) claim that their worst design memory was "a panic attack enduced [sic] by good taste in the kitchenware department of the Conran store".

Tasteful artefacts are not what this show is about. Instead, common materials - clothes, bottles, swearwords - are wittily appropriated and inventively recycled to create a raw and temporary urban aesthetic. This is an old game that designers like to play but it is one that seems to work afresh - and well - with each new generation.

Surprisingly, perhaps, many jokes and improvisations tried out here transcend their conception to become desirable - and even, dare I say it, tasteful - consumer objects. Mercifully, the ICA understands the base desires provoked by such paraphernalia, and their shop is bristling with affordable versions of the articles on show. Even the sponsors, Perrier-Jouet champagne, have entered into the spirit with a smart glass champagne bucket designed by Azumi (yours for £40).

The 16 young exhibitors are excitingly disparate. They include clothes designers, whose work ranges from 6876's classic raincoats to Ann-Sofie Back's alarming confections of second-hand fake satin. denim, felt pen and lace; almost conventional furniture-makers such as Michael Marriott, with his handsome plywood pieces, and Azumi, whose shopping trolleys; and the extrafast-paced light shows in collabora-

tion with musicians and artists. The ICA's main gallery is divided into a series of allotment-like strips, each devoted to the work of one exhibitor; the strips continue, beyond a wall pierced by a series of portholes, into the corridor. Most offer-



ings are easily contained within their spaces, although Fat's forest of silver birches, to which lights and other diversions are attached, seems to extend beyond the ceiling. thanks to a reflecting strip.

The sanitary-ware manufacturers Armitage Shanks - not best known for their contribution to art - have excelled themselves, not only collaborating on jaunty floral ceramic benches for a rundown street in Stoke-on-Trent, but also donating the white urinal panels that make up the ICA's new har - their name is cheerfully and cheekily visible. And very smart it looks, too. The

bar, redesigned by 24/7, is literally at chairs are made in the same way as the centre of the show, between the main and the upstairs galleries; it ordinary Light Surgeons, visual DJs houses undyed, transparent verwho mix old and new film to create sions of Robin Day's classic Polyprop chair (available in other colours from Habitat for £35 each) and deliciously sliced and laminated plywood tables and banisters. Huge posters by British Creative Decay, ironically depicting anti-fly-posting devices, line the staircase of the building to great effect.

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Michael Anastassiades', Antony

prizewinning plastic hanging magbeautifully made structures as a azine and hat-racks (Good Morning seat to be shared with flowers; Miss Moneypenny II costs £7.50 in Cucumber Sandwich, a table for containing, growing, straightening and the shop - and there's a prize for the displaying cucumbers; and a grassvisitor who can throw a bowler hat coated hump for lovers' tiffs. Most of on to an arm of it from the greatest distance). Other works concentrate the work, however, hovers more on conceit rather than function: uncertainly between the decorative.

The ICA gallery divided into allotment-like strips, main picture; Georg Baldele's 'Caveman' lights, left; glasses by Tord Boontje, centre; a Light Surgeons installation, right Some pieces, though whimsic- Dunne's and Fiona Raby's almost- Probably the best-known pieces ally displayed, are ultimately prac- furniture mocks the British pre- are Tord Boontje's decisively sliced tical, such as El Ultimo Grito's occupation with gardening. in such and sand-blasted bottles: his wall of cut and assembled green glass is a glorious spectacle. He has also contributed a range of furniture made of objects found in skips, including a "rough-and-ready chair" consist-

House & Home

ing of wood, Army blanket and

metallic tape - if you feel tempted

to make your own, just pull a sheet

of instructions off the wall.

But possibly the most intriguing designs in Stealing Beauty are Georg Baldele's glowing Caveman lights, stalagmite growths of coiled paper powered by a 35-watt bulb. Even more improbable is his twotone floor, a rusty red that wears thin over five years to reveal a singing blue surface beneath. Indeed the whole show is engag-

ing and playful, working a kind of magic on implausible materials. The beauty comes from the reinvention of familiar, inexpensive things, raw ingredients which even the show's curator, Claire Catterall, calls "essentially, just a load of old tat".

Stealing Beauty: British Design Now runs from 3 April to 23 May, 12noon-7.30pm daily at the Institute of Contemporary Arts, The Mall, London SW1 5AH (0171-930 3647); admission: ICA members free/day membership £1.50 Mon-Fri, £2.50 Sat & Sun; catalogue £10. There will be a one-day conference on contemporary design (speakers to include Professor Theodore Zeldin) on Sat 10 April, 10am-6pm

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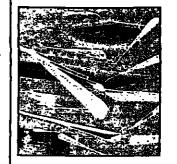
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DESIGN LINES

MOBILES ARE traditionally sculptures suspended in midair that move with the wind. Not so the architect-, artist- and engineer-designed models to be found gyrating on the walls and floor as well as the ceiling of the Riba Architecture Gallery. They include the ground-based Wiggly Worm (rather a large one) by Daniel Chadwick, Flight by Diana Edmunds (illustrated below), and Peter Fluck's and Tony Myatt's wallmounted Chaotic Constructions, combining sculpture, music and computer technology. A number are for sale. Mobiles@RIBA is at 66 Portland Place, London W1N 4DS till 24 April (0171 307 3641)



POTS GALORE in London this spring as two esteemed British ceramicists and one Danish potter exhibit their work. Martin Smith's controlled geometric forms with metallic interiors can be found at the Barrett Marsden Gallery, while visitors to the Crafts Council Shop at the V&A will be treated to a small display of porcelain and earthenware figures by Mo Jupp. Lis Ehrenreich's pots in their first UK showing - are at Galerie Besson, the smart West End ceramics showcase. Barrett Marsden Gallery, 17-18 Great Sutton Street, London EC1 (0171-336 6396). until 17 April: Crafts Council Shop at the V&A. London SW7, until 25 April: Galerie Besson, 15 Royal Arcade, 28 Old Bond Street, London W1 (0171-491 1706), until 23 April

FOR MORE folksy figurative pottery, check out the 19thcentury animals, politicians and other Staffordshire delights at Christie's South Kensington on 8 April. Lovers of Art-Nouveau and Art-Deco ceramics, glass and metalware are catered for too. with a sale the following day. Christie's South Kensington. 85 Old Brompton Road. London SW7 (0171-581 7611)

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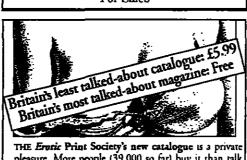
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trations for Initiation Amoureuse are as erotically explicit as the lovely young bride in them, is at the outset, naive. They are also accompanied by a first English translation

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A tour of the CD players, navigation systems and even TVs you'll wish you had when stuck in the Easter gridlock. By Shaun Phillips

Hard to keep your eyes on the road

here's Valentine's interface (the VZ907, main picture) Day, Mother's Day and Father's Day. Why isn't there an annual holiday when we all get our elbows greased with Turtle Wax and pay homage to the most overlooked member of the family: the motor-in-law?

Is it because Halford's isn't as media savvy as Cadbury's? Or is it it out for you, guiding you both onbecause, deep down, we all recognise that there is a universal truth: modern cars are rubbish?

Now Max Power readers can blow cash on Oz Polaris alloy wheels and designer gear knobs until the cows come home, but they might as well hang fluffy dice from their chrome-plated rear-view mirrors for all the good it will do them. vehicle, and both watch and operate

No amount of cosmetic surgery can disguise the fact that beneath the trimmings they are in possession of the automobile equivalent of bull mastiffs: fierce, plug-ugly, little monsters with large growls but no bails. Fiat Puntos, Honda Civics, Citroen AXs, and their ilk don't deserve an occasional car-wash, let alone a perennial treat.

You, however, do. It's something of a paradox that people who would happily spend more than a grand installing a decent hi-fi in their homes will spend more time listening to music on the cheap stereo that came fitted-as-standard with their car. To ensure that an out-of-tune DJ's whine doesn't spur you into an act of road rage with a wheel brace, perhaps it's time you considered installing the following hardware:

THE KENWOOD MIXER Name: Kenwood In-Car Navigation System and CD Receiver Price: £2,500

Stockists: 01923 816 444

Description: If you didn't know notice it, because the brains of Kenwood's navigational system - a 2kg silver box of tricks called the KNA-V100 - is housed in the car boot. This machine uses a global-positioning system to pinpoint exactly where your car is located and guides

you to any other address you wish. The FM tuner unit is also tucked away at the back, while the user

is a secretive, pop-up, 5.8-inch wide colour screen (with CD player) located in an unmarked panel in the dashboard. An on-screen virtual keyboard allows you to punch in a specific destination, or you can use various databases to search for garages and car parks. Simply select whether you want the most direct or

the speediest route and it will map

screen and verbally. Spending more than two grand on an electronic road map might seem like something of a luxury, but the navigational function is just the tip of the proverbial iceberg in terms of this gizmo's potential. The screen also acts as a control panel for the unit's built-in CD player, and you can install a video and TV tuner in your

it via this screen. Suitable for: Anyone who couldn't find a beer bottle in a brewery

Style: ***** Anything else worth recommending?

Kenwood do a number of additional. bolt-on units, including a six-disc Mini Disc Autochanger (KMD-C80, £600), a 10-CD Autochanger (C907, £300) and a Digital Audio Broadcast Receiver (KTC959, £1,000).

TV QUICK Name: Clarion VRX8470R Price: £1,300

Stockists: 01793 870 400 Description: Like Kenwood's system, this is an ever-pulsating brain that can be expanded with all sorts of extra accessories. Instead of using a navigational system as its centrepoint, Clarion's VRX8470R revolves around a TV/radio and a 4x30watt amplification unit. The dashboard interface (above) looks like a straightforward AM/FM radio that it was there, then you wouldn't tuner, but at the touch of a button it pops out to reveal a five-inch LCD



screen and TV tuner (which stores increases the faster you drive. up to 12 pre-set channels). Suitable for: TV-addicted reps.

Style: **** Anything else worth recommending?

If you're one of those people who never seem to be able to spot either low walls or bollards when reversing, then the Clarion Reversing Aid Camera (CC850E, £350) is a vital accessory At the flick of a switch, you parts for your block-rocking beats. can see what's behind you through the dashboard screen.

SIX APPEAL Name: Nakamichi MB-75 Price: £700 Stockists: 0181-863 9117 (from July) **Description:** Multi-disc CD



machines are bulky affairs usually housed in a car boot. Invariably, this inaccessibility results in you playing the same CDs for months. Nakamichi has now managed to cram a six-disc CD changer and radio receiver into a standard-sized. in-dash machine (above). What's more, the audio quality is magnificent, the styling superb (you can chose amber or green illumination) and the machine has several other neat benefits, including a removable front panel (to deter theft), anti-roll suspension, palm-sized remote, soft eject system and magnetic disc clamping. No, that's not a bulky yellow cage that a warden attaches to your stereo while you nip into the newsagent, but the way in which a CD is held in position, cutting out the vibrations that occur in units which use conventional spring systems. Suitable for: anyone who gets bored with CDs after track three.

Anything else worth recom-

If you would prefer a CD, radio and MiniDisc all in one self-contained unit, then your best bet is probably JVC's KD-MX3000RB (0181-208 7654, £550). Its neat gimmick is Cruise, a system by which the volume

AMPLIFICATION AND **SPEAKERS**

Name: Phoenix Gold QX2100 amplifiers and JL Audio 10W0-8 10inch subwoofers Price: £160 and £115 each, respec-

Stockists: 0181-863 9117

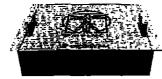


Both amplifiers and speakers are available in a mind-numbing lange of sizes and strengths. The silver powder-polished QX2100s (above) are capable of handling most drivers' audio requirements; the 10W0-8 speakers look unremarkable but boast VRC technology, a system which apparently locks the critical joint between the spider, cone and voice coil. None the wiser? Don't worry, you only have to listen to them, not talk about them.

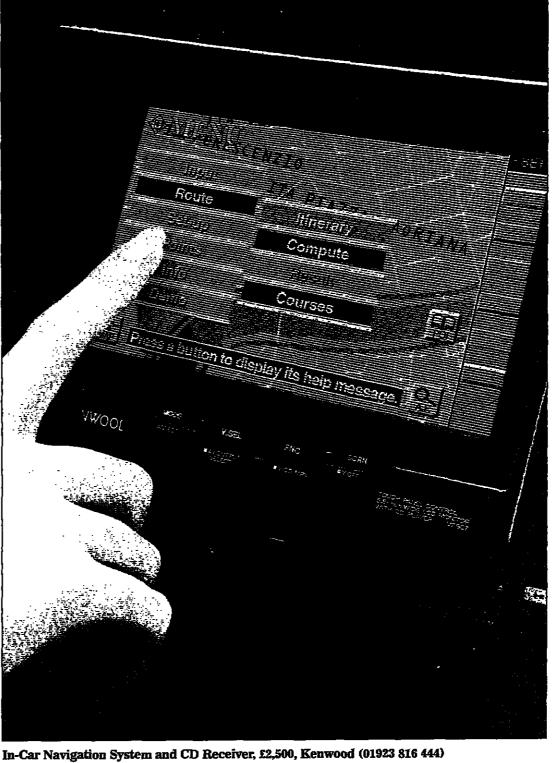
Suitable for: people with ears on the sides of their heads. Style: ****

Anything else worth recommending?

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Shaun Phillips is deputy editor of 'ZM' magazine



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men

LIKE MINDS?

es, late 40s, but could be 10 years

WELSH MALE. Unpretentious male, aged 26, 58°, straight acting, brown halt, blue eyes, hat his chama, travel, good tood, fit-ness, countryside, seeking a chunky Welshman, aged 20-35, Ontrod, Manchester or anywhere 12:597_

alternative 11FESTYLE FUN, FRUEND

dark brown hair, brown aves, enpoys watching the news, good moves earling out, is seeking couples or singles, any size, very shims or very plump, for good fur times 25-60-41.

ALPHA BETA CURI CULIAM Aural, bums and hips Chekhov, dures, first-takes, burnour ideas, jourl, kindness, love, fust and herature, sweet music, Never-Never Land, open minds, passion, quet, respect, submissive siren, fust, underground, voluptious, want, strainfight, von, veet feet.



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Successful, dynamic, sim, professional woman, works hard, plays hard, seeks similar male, 405-50s, into classical music, faress, ideas, travel and hun, Gasayov or anywhere. TYCIZS
MADRID/BARCEL ONA
Creative, attractive, sim terrole, prior-ADRIDIPARCE ONA
Creative, attractive, sim temsie, articulate, with efforvescent personality,
seeks cultured, N/S, sim male, 50-65,
for holiday in May, possible relationship, St Abans, 17:584
SUCCESSIONAL SINGLE
If you're an unansched male, 30s,
stractive, creative and intelligent, into
nusic, cultos, conversation, travel, theatte, i would like to hear from you.
15:578
HAPPY OPTIBIST
Attractive, sim, furny, unconventional
formale, 34, interesting, intelligent, creative, educated, loves reading, laughling, the arts, countryside and cities,
travel, staying at home, speking a \$36038 NAN WITH QUALITIES? Unconventional Continental brunette. late 40s, tall, slim, N/S, intellectual/art iste 4.0s, tall, sim, NS, intellectual/arts Interests/profession, erroys outdoors, seeks lad graduate, professional male, 45-55, ernotionely literate. Ively mend, straiter interests, Bents/Oom/Lon. 325-636

NOT MUCH TO ASK
Tall, attractive, sim white lemale, 43, seeking a tall, attractive black male, 30-40, for genurue TLC 125-587

EstoTIONAL WEAPON
Tender Leith lemale varrior, 30, destree chaming, caring apportent male gladion, 30+, for a genutne, amicable duo. London/South East. 125-589 travel, staying at home, seeking a compatible male, under 55. \$5510 DELICIOUS BRUNETTE Work let se out with 2.50-50.

ANYBODY UP NORTH?

Warm, cuddly, firely woman, 42, 5; blands, blue eyes, insighent, Russ music, lood, countryside, travel, motorcycles, seeking an Intelligent, with carbon and the goddess within Cambrish Lancs, 275830

PERFECTLY PARADONGAL

Partner acught by this furry, satious, happy, sad woman, 46-8. Someons who shares her understanding of the need to become all that we truly an. Prighton besed, 275039

DEEPLY CYNICAL
Stm, 577, brown-eyed brunette, GSOH, attractive, athletic, 29, ergoys theathe, music outdoor pursuits and keep fit, seeks solvent male, 25-40, with similar interests, who can restore its latil in mare, Hangshire, 275024 keep-fit, seeks solvent male, 25-40, with similar interests, who can restore her lath in men. Hampshire, 12-6034
CREATIVE AND STYLISH
Affactive, sim, caring, independent brunette, 47, loreign national, professional, enjoys opera, dessical music, travel seeks mature, well-aducated, sincere, professional male, 48-55, for hendship and hope-thigh love, 125-534
UNICOVER THE MYSTERY
Bright, curvisceous, vivadous, misothe-vous, suitry, dark-eyed fiellen lasty.
30s, seeks tait, hendsome, professional male, to long-term relationship.

TS:5599
ATTRACTIVE & INTELLIGENT
Genuine, warm, sim, fit, prolessional, vibrant, blonde harnele, 30, NS, seelssinifer male, 61, ashebic build, hopefully leading to love, happress and a committed relationship. Herts or Bucks area preferred. TS:554
SEEKING FUR AND FRIENDSHIP Tail and skim, prolessional women, mid-30s, independent, lively, creative, seeking a confident and stylesh man, for fun daysymights out, intendiship, leading to romance. Newcastie area. TS:5049
ALL WOMAN
Female, 40, turny and felssy, in Wales, seeks homest, reliable and clever man. TS:567
ONE MAN AND HS DOC
Man with dog sought by recently bereaved labrador owner, 45+, NS, with good brain and looks. London WES
TS:501
COCK-EYED & OPTIMISTIC Intelligent, size, and pretty female, in leash 40s, into springal growth, bookshops, country walks, attempon teaand champagne, seeks kind, ritelligent, sensitive male, 44-60, why also enjoys chemica, theather and muse, for themdeling and romance. Welsh marchss. 275799
IT COULD BE YOU
Sim and attractive woman, 55, joernale Lumies type, evolve good company, has an active lifestyle, seeks solvent, stractive, outgoing, till male. Looking forward to hearing from you. 25:581 NEW FOREST GRADUATE Attractive, sim, blonde, ansatz female, 54°, enjoys sirts, freatire, eating out, her music, seeks fur-hoving, easygo-ing, intelligent, professional male, 35-45, 27:533 GERUINE LADY Christian female, 25, 53°, aubumyblue. NS, enjoys sating out and having hat, seeks decart Christian guy, 25-30. NS, to her modship/relationship. CAUGHT UP IN CAMBRIDGESHIPE
Tal. sim, professional temate, 35,
seeks soul mate, to explore the great
outdoors and add some spice to Ba.
25:887
HELP - NORTH WEST
Two attractive, happy, intelligent South
Cumbria temates, 34/45, seek berosmiter days enthrogether at the second.

GENUINE MALE
Single white male, 44, professional, considerate and honest, lots to offer, many interests: country-side, walking and dancing, seeks genuine lady, for interdistip, London area, 278027
BRISTOLESOUTH WEST
Afractive, kind, intelligent, loyal male, aged 41, non-emoker, is seeking a similar female, for outling, conversation, intendistip and love, 176050
PLEASE REPLY
Tall, dark and handsome, setten, garn error instructoria, ser-employed businessman, aged 40, seeking a happy, retelligent, beautiful girtitend, aged 24-32. London. 15584 ANYTHING'S POSSIBLE Professional foil male, arrest 30 AVC

TS-584
ANYTHING'S POSSIBLE
Professional, tail male, egad 39. N/S, considered good-looking, GSOH, new to area, enjoys music, country walks, freatre, saling, leep-fit seeks strong, stamps, freatre, saling, leep-fit seeks strong, stamps, freatre, saling, leep-fit seeks strong, stamps, freatre, saling, seep-fit seeks strong, stamps, freatre, saling, sa

50, NS. Edirburgh based TS028
29-YEAR-OLD MALE
6it, iden, bluelderk, ettractive, enjoys
tarrel, music, cireara, eating invoit
photography, sports, seeks attractive
temple. To themdship, possibly miora.
Agearase unimportant. Bristel based
but gan travel. TS942
FATHER FIGURE
Vies old owl bachelor, 50. gentle but
fort-tearable finglit, seeking a young
ledy, who needs an older father figure.
Not rich, but all of me will honour and
protect you. South. TS982
REGENERATED EX-NEW MAN
Boylsh, 60. slim, tall, felt, tald back,
worsts to rediscover excitement of diferince with a ferminine woman. SS-65,
gentle, burom and curry, dark/dishr.
Cellicit_atin, good looks, N/S. London
TS979
ARAB WOMAN SOUGHT
Arab male, 34, graduete, honest, genthe, land, loving, into air, poetry, literstare, seeking a land, honest woman,
for gerular heredship, leading to a
lasting relationship. TS842
Ex-backgacker, 29, 510°, well-built,
radical, styr, sensitive, honest, enjoys oker, 29, 510°, well-built, Ex-backgracker, 29, 510°, well-built, radical, sty, sensitive, honest, enkrys pubs, swimming, reading, good conversation, seeks attractive mixed receivablack female, similar interests, 27-34, 125502 OXFORD Debart chap, 35, bill, own teeth and home, seeks you? 125543 SINATRA LOVER
Witty, intelligent, dark, mesculine, professorial male, aged 33, loves music,
countryside, films, sports, seeks stim,
attractive, cultured but caring lady,
without children, who's independent,
for a lasting relationship, 25'5985
CALL ME
Black male, 32, 5'11", medium build,
black/brown, engoys lasep-fit, cinema,
long wates, eating out and friends,
seeks lady, 25-35, shimmedium build,
to share interests with, 25'5889
IF LIFE IS A JOURNIEV.
...then I'm looking for a co-driver.

Cheming, junny, romantic, solvent, spontaneous, solvent, successful male, 34, with zest longite. Passions: music, eating, shopping, seeking challenging female, 25-35, humour assential, lun guaranteed. Onfordifiertes/Bucks area preferably. 27:5856
LUST FOR LIFE Male, 36, 5107, blond/blue, sincere, slightly mad, into anything theirs fun, seeks wicked woman, 20-30, with good bone structure, to shower with götedion. Manchester. 27:5839
HAPPY SURRYY
Warm-hearted, triandly, adventurous Statutus (ut.)

Asian male, 30-something, 6' tall,
divorced, sporty, sophisticated, simple
and spiritual, seeks lemale, with pos-tive outlook on life, for triendship and the cultiook on life, for friendship and tun. London area. \$75838 SOUL MATE SEARCH Arractive architect, 30s, 5 %, dark hale green-blue eyes, slimmsh build, NrS. outgoing, spontaneous, romantic, loves sponts, cycling, walls, the arts, suthibitions, travel and socialising, seeking a creative fermale, who is on a similar wavelength, for possible serious relationship. Indicate the one of the procession of the

Fall, attractive, gentle vegetarian, late 50s, 5107, NS, seeks single, refined, unattactred lemale, 40-65, for long-term, caring triendiship and more. 275951

FRIENDLY & RESERVED
Reserved, mexperienced, mid-40s
male, likes bravel, socialising, seeks
similar, sincere, lady, mid-30s to 50, for
hendship, possibly more. Easy/North
London or Essax area. 275916
BLOSSOMMS FLITTIRE
Tail, silm gentleman. 55, NS, Bass the
normal things in life, seeking sim lady,
NS, who requires romance, sincerby
and kindness, with wining and diving,
MS area. 275038
TALL, DARK GRADUATE
Warm, caring male, wide interess arts. TALL, CARK CHADUATE
Marm, caring male, wide Interess arts,
freeire, cherna, pulss, clubs, well-ing,
country-side, mountains, turelign travel,
seeks tall, sim, professioned, ritaligent
woman, 34-46, similar interests, must
have VGSOH. 275974
STUNNING!

Trunking intelligent, caring and attractive male, 25, sensitive, with stamma, seeks sturning blonde, 18-35, for fur, intendship and enjoying the good Re. 27:5047
WILL YOU BE MINE?
Your joby man, early 30s, 59°, well-built, enjoys going out, eating out, firms, seeking a bucomucutdly female, large build, for intendship, possibly more. 27:5915
MANDSCRIE AND GENEUNE
Cdy professional, 5°, with Re, GSCH, varied interests, seeks attractive, sim, coming female, for fine-fishipy romance. You won't be disappointed. 27:5852
SUCCESSFUL LAWYER Young-looking 35, seeks intellectual formale, any nationality/haze, for relationship, 17:5863. I'M WAITING to make two lives com-plete, yours and mane. Me, 41, 6', dark and handsome, N/S, warm, winy and svallable, very creative, trito arts, the atte, chema, music. You? Remember I'm waiting. \$75831

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wants the best out of the please call. Must be positive 'TS-583' DEREIC'S THE NAME Kind, honest, trustworthy, furny, chival-russ, good-looking male (or so they say), 40s. 5; slim build, fit, blue eyes, educated Passiones horses, riding, witdife, selling, string, theetre, music and travel, is seeking a female com-panion. 25:555. THIREE COLOURS Young-looking student councillor, aged seeking

THREE COLOURS

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34, 63°, easygoing, caring, thoughtitul,
humorous, emplys films, yoga, relacting
with friends, seeling independent, caring temels, to enjoy life with.
Newcastie erea. 156048

ARE YOU OUT THERE?
Gentle doctor, aged 60, 55°, south
London, enjoys reading, dassical
music, traditional jazz, theatre, travel,
OIY, people and vintage care, seeks
lemels graduate, N.S. 25975

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Chamming, furny, romantic, solvent,

HAPPT SURNY Warm-heared, frandly, adventurous male, 45, 6, N/S, Russ sports, swimming, leeping fit, general socialising, seeka friendly temale, warm, caring, single mums sepadativ watcome, for trendshipheladoriship, 125805
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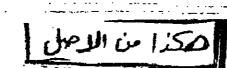
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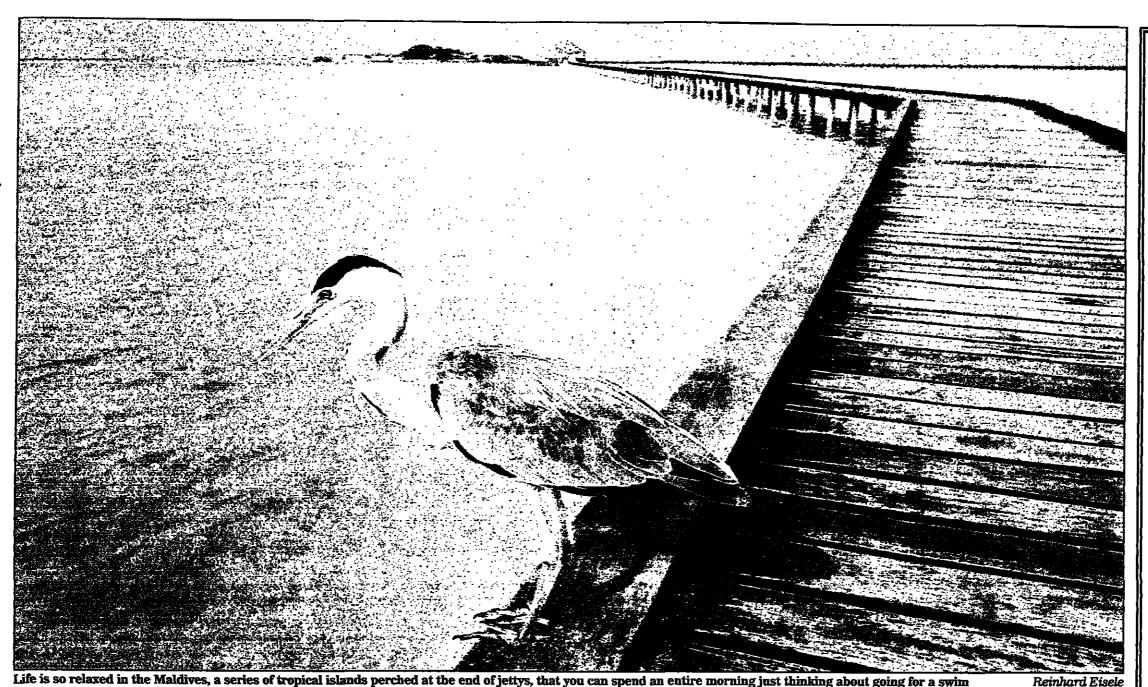


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aun Phillips

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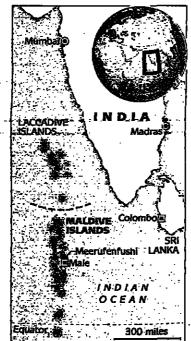
Despite the honeymooners, the Maldives is a great place for enjoying some tranquillity. By Maggie O'Farrell

precise moment when I was struck by the weirdness of the situation was when I saw the man ahead of me on the jetty carrying, hoisted up on his shoulder, my suitcase. He was walking about 10 paces in front, and I was following, carrying only my sunglasses. I've lugged a rucksack across the Far East and most of Europe, and I pride myself on being a hardened traveller. I'd never before in my life travelled with a suitcase. It usually lives under my bed, coming out only to hold my posh clothes when I move house. But now someone was carrying it for me. Up a jetty. Towards a tropical island resort.

5171 293 2505

The rain, wind and frost of a relentless British winter had been getting me and my boyfriend down; in February we saw a cut-price air fare to the Maldives, and rather recklessly booked two weeks there, thinking only of an escape to 30°Cplus temperatures. It was afterwards that we got worried. Would we be bored? Was the resort going to be a nightmare? What do people do all day on a tropical island?

In the ensuing weeks, I discovered that everybody's heard of the Maldives but no one knows quite where they are. They are an independent Islamic republic of 1,192



coral islands in the middle of the Indian Ocean, south west of Sri Lanka, inhabited by about 250,000 people. Twenty years ago, the Maldivian government came up with a master plan for sustainable, environment-friendly tourism, citing what they termed "the Robinson Crusoe factor" as the islands' main attraction.

Tourists were to be limited to a small number of islands and resorts were to be traffic-free, with buildings that weren't taller than the vegetation and could provide all the necessary catering and infrastructure so that waste disposal and fuel consumption could be regulated and controlled. This gave rise to more pre-holiday cynicism; just how solitary can you feel when you're sharing your island with 500 other Robinsons? When I arrived at Meerufenfushi

- the island at the end of the jetty the weirdness intensified. A man in a Hawaiian shirt handed us lurid drinks adorned with cherries and, as I discovered throughout my two weeks there, similarly dressed men appeared wherever you looked serving food, answering phones, talking to guests, tilling the soil, making up rooms, and - weirdest of all - raking the sand. I didn't, however, see a single Maldivian woman. When I asked our waiter where they all were, he looked confused for a moment, then said: "On another island."

Meeru is one of the larger island resorts in the North Male Atoll. It's roughly a mile square, rimmed by white sand beaches and an almost waveless turquoise sea. Rows of rooms are shaded by jungle vegetation, all of them self-

Maldivian domestic feature - a private, alfresco shower-room. For an island that plays host to so many guests, its most noticeable feature is the silence. There are so many trees, so many shaded inlets and so many mini-beaches that it is perfectly possible to pretend you're to resurface until our return plane

prepared to discount the free-for-all

mass buffet meal-times.

veranda and - that quintessentially

Boredom was something I needn't have worried about. What I hadn't accounted for in my pre-resort holiday nerves was the acclimatisation that takes place after a day or two - both to the oven-like temperatures and to the pace of life. It's like living in slow motion. I am not known for being equable or relaxed, but I soon found I could spend a whole morning just

thinking about going for a swim. My workaholic boyfriend and I became accustomed to 10- or 11-hour sleeps; I would spend hours gazing at trapezoids of light swinging across the bottom of the pool, wandering through the shallows looking for baby sharks and crabs, reading in one of the cafes, or floating aimlessly on my back in the sea.

One night we sat on a beach for ages as Hammer Horror forks of lightning cracked open the horizon contained, with air-conditioning, a and lurid green phosphorescence glinted brightly, like cats' eyes, on the shore of the sea. The one thing the "Robinson

Crusoe" idea doesn't do justice to is the sub-aqua world of these islands. We put on masks and snorkels on our second day, for want of anything better to do, and then practically refused alone for a day - as long as you're was threatening to leave the runway. Imagine a tropical aquarium, full of clear, warm water and coloured fish: magnify it in size to infinity, and then imagine yourself swimming through it. If, like us, you decide that snorkelling just isn't enough, you can do a scuba-diving course and go down further to swim among thousands of angel fish and herds of dolphins, sharks (the white reef tip kind - small. and friendly), turtles and

giant clams. As the environment minister, John Prescott, recently showed, though, the coral here is dead and lies wearing the grey colour of old socks. A Russian geologist told me over dinner one night that all may not be lost. As we saw, the fish haven't deserted it, and he explained that the warmer temperatures of El Nino that destroyed the coral's living core may just act like a forest fire - a natural disaster that will allow regeneration to take place in

are beginning to return each year, along with the latest batch of holiday-makers.

The Maldives may not be a place for single people - the veritable plague of honeymooners here lie on sun loungers, build sandcastles together or spend their days snogging in the pool - but if you fancy a bit of couple-based solitude and more than a touch of "The Big Blue" factor, get yourself down to a travel agent. A word of warning though when you're snorkelling, make sure you have plenty of sunblock on your burn. I failed to do this and was left with a perfect, burnt crescent on each buttock, rendering me unable to sit down for two days.

Maggie O'Farrell paid £430 for a special-offer return flight from London to Male' with Emirates (0171-808 0808). Current fares cost £645 from London Gatwick through Dnata Travel (0500 777310).

Full-board accommodation at the Meeru Island Resort (00 960 440082) cost US \$100 per night for two people and the motor boat to the island (about 40km from the airport) costs US \$80. A \$40 introductory dive class takes one morning and allows you to dive to 12m with an instructor. A full PADI open-water divits wake. In places, there are signs ing course on Meeru starts at that the vibrant colours of living coral around US \$450 per person

SOMETHING TO DECLARE

NEWS FROM THE TRAVEL WORLD

Bargain of the week: Rome, the week after next Easter during Rome's Jubilee Holy Year in 2000, will resemble having the World Cup come to Canterbury. As with all the best events, it'll be murder trying to get a ticket. During 1999's Holy Week, Pope John Paul II has been limbering up to his schedule-busting busiest in preparation for next year. And Rome is busy getting dressed up and made-up for its millennium party. A fair number of the city's buildings and monuments are cloaked in scaffolding, including the entire façade of St Peter's Basilica, which is due for completion at year's end. Unfortunately, at the same time as the wraps come off, hotel prices are likely to rise. So a premillennium Rome might be lighter on your toga pouch. And, if you travel the week after next, you'll find some

Cultural Heritage Week runs from 12 to 19 April. During this time, all Rome's municipal and state galleries and museums are free. Many stay open late into the evening. There's even the long-awaited Gian Lorenzo Bernini biographic exhibition at Palazzo delle Esposizioni; he was the sculptor of some of the gorgeous rounday.

cleaned up today.

JAMES HILL

A likely story: the Last Supper is closed for Easter. Unlikely, but sadly true. Milan's greatest artistic attribute resides in the Vinciano Refectory adjacent to Santa Maria delle Grazie church, in the west of the city. Leonardo da Vinci's celebrated mural of the moment when Jesus announced his imminent betrayal to the assembled Apostles is undergoing restoration yet again (it was last tidied up in 1995).

For clues about the likely reopening, contact the Italian State Tourist Office, 1 Princes St. London W1R 8AY (0171-408 1254). But be prepared for a long wait.

Trouble spots in Sicily "Travellers to eastern Sicily are warned that there has been considerable seismic activity in the vicinity of Mount Etna recently. It is prohibited for anyone to climb to the summit of Etna unless accompanied by an accredited guide. Guides can be hired from dawn to dusk at Etna Sud and Etna Nord ski stations on the mountain itself. During the current period of activity guides are not authorised to take people beyond the 3,000m level" -

Foreign Office advice for travellers to Italy

AIR MILES aren't worth the paper they're printed on. I can say that with some confidence, because the small print of the vouchers says "cash value 0.001p per mile". So the 50-mile coupon issued by British Airways is worth just one-20th of a penny, and you can't get a quality piece of watermarked paper for that sort of money these days.

The notional cash value is, of course, just a legal convenience designed to nullify any attempt to claim money from the BA offshoot that runs the frequent-flyer programme. The effective value of each air mile varies wildly, depending on which route you choose to redeem them - anything between a quarter of a penny per air mile, if you are reckless enough to use them for a trip to Australia, to more

tion please tick here. 🗆



SIMON CALDER

The currency of air miles is about to become debased

than 50 pence each if you choose the right short-haul flight. But anyone who collects air miles should know that the currency has effectively been debased.

The culprit, as I reported in the news pages yesterday, is the "passenger service charge" that, from next Friday, will be added to the price of air miles tickets - even though it is in no sense a new tax. The airlines are simply charging us twice for something we already pay for once.

Callers to Air Miles this

week are being given the impression that Air Miles is

merely acting as a tax collector: "It's a government charge that we have to pass on," I was told by one reservations agent; Our hands are completely tied." Another said, "It's not us charging it, it's actually the airports, hence we've

had to add it to the tickets." Neither the Government. nor individual airports, have increased their fees to airlines, but Air Miles staff are pretending they have. The company's group marketing manager, Judith Thorne, said staff would be re-briefed to make clear the nature of the charge.

"Antum fam per person in cludes accomposition and is subject to availability. Must include a Friday or Saturday
"Return face per person excludes accomposition and is nubject to unadability. Must include Sa
francial call inter apply. Calls may be assolded for quality control. A charge of £5 is payable.

However the profitboosting move is described. though, the consequences for people who have been diligently saving frequentflyer points are dismal. Five vears ago vou simply swapped air miles for flights, with no cash changing hands. Then Kenneth Clarke introduced air passenger duty - a real tax - which means you pay £10 for each "free" flight

within Europe.

that an air miles flight from A to B will now cost a total of £27.80, when A is Aberdeen and B is Belfast. That seems a lot to pay for a "free" flight lasting about an hour. It also serves to make the company's slogan look rather silly: "When you collect air miles, leisure time becomes free time in more ways than one."

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Sunday morning using a scheduled seat base two splendid hotels: the 3-star Hotel Britannia Excelsior is located close to the famous Villa Carlotta at Cadenabbia and all 152 rooms have ensuite facilities. The optional morning visit to Venice including superior 4-star Grand Hotel Menaggio located

right on the lake and built in classical style. Bridge of Sighs and Rialto Bridge and a cruise on the Grand Canal. 56 beautifully appointed rooms all have

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How not to get the hump in Egypt

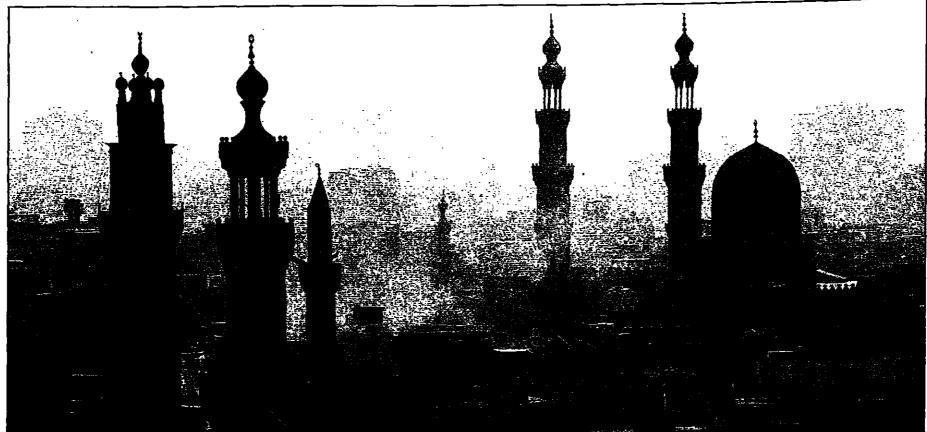
The way to get around in Cairo is to toot your car horn, or failing that to hiss loudly. Alison Emmett offers a city survival guide

he most important Ithing to remember when you're going to Egypt isn't to pack your sunscreen although you'd be foolish not to - but to remember to leave behind the attitude that made you so stressed that you needed a holiday in the first place. Chill by 10 degrees as soon as you

check in your luggage. Chant a mantra of tolerance, no matter how slow the people in front of you are moving, or who got served their G&T before you did. This will ready your brain for dealing with the sensory onslaught of arriving in Cairo. It may also stop you from hyperventilating when your taxi driver from the airport uses either the hazard lights, the right indicator or the horn instead of the headlights, gives the wheel to another driver half-way to your hotel, and seems to take no notice of road markings, traffic lights, or any part whatsoever of the Highway Code.

The huge neon advertisements that loom out of the smog choking the Cairo night sky could make you think you've landed in the opening scenes of Blade Runner, that at any moment a geisha will appear advertising life in the Off-World Colonies. Below the lights a stream that hover two storeys or more above ground. Cars dodge around people who are sweeping the dust around with brooms, and children are on foot or travelling by donkey, who are playing "tig"; traffic, pedes-trians and donkeys have equal rights to Egyptian road space, sharing the Tarmac - or dirt - with a mutual respect that makes a pleasing contrast to the average British rush-

harder to get used to. The main rule meet. If someone tries to get you up seems to be that if you've got a horn, on their camel, it's not hard to work



of traffic pours along expressways Climb up to the top of Cairo's mosques to escape the crowds and, smog permitting, to pick out the pyramids at Giza

use it to warn anyone who may be interested in your presence. If you make instead a loud hissing sound - this is also used to show appreciation of the human form. So if you get hissed at, either move before you get squished, or blush/scowl/grin. Probably best to move first.

Less easy to read are the signals Other traffic conventions are you pick up from the people you

out that they'll want some baksheesh in return. The tricky bit is distinguishing between the many people in the street who simply want to talk to you and practise their English, and those who want to talk to you and sell you something. Either way, stay relaxed; even if you don't buy anything, you'll be given

mint tea and friendly banter. Not that this should deter anyone from having a good mooch around Khan al Khalili - the so-called

"tourist bazaar". Enter it at the wrong point and "tourist bazaar" seems a curious name as you squeeze past mountains of M&S seconds circa 1972, and enough enormous white Y-fronts to equip an army of giants. Keep on wandering and you'll find a glittering selection of sheesha pipes, glass lanterns, gold, papyrus... Just be prepared to leap out of the way when someone

South of Khan al Khalili is the "Egyptian bazaar", a dark warren of narrow streets. There are several mosques in this area and, if you're suitably dressed and pluck up the of curious physical jerks: thudding courage to ask, it's possible to escape the crowds. Your reward is looking down straight into the market. Raise your gaze and on the southern horizon you'll find the Citadel enclosure. Look west and, if the smog hasn't settled, you'll be able to pick out the British Museum".

Another way to escape the press of Cairo's 18 million inhabitants is to visit the Egyptian Museum. It's contents are liable to bring on a series contact of jaw on collar bone at the sight of Tutankhamun's treasure,

and a cringing, shoulders-up, chin-

jutting grimace of embarrassment

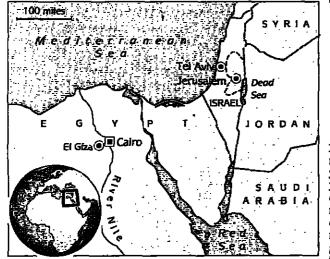
as the guides repeat that such-and-such an artefact "is now kept in the

corridors, you can dramatically increase both what you understand about the monuments you see and what you'll remember about them when you come back: read the culture bit of your guide book, and fill in the family trees for the ancient Egyptian gods and royal families.

All of which will stand you in good stead when, having devoted a couple of hours to the contents of the tombs, you go to check out some ancient ideas on where to keep your sarcophagus. First up are the pyramids at Giza. These are about 4,700 years old, but forget learning about Egyptian history, as there's a more modern mission in store: the search for the Perfect Camera Angle. And it's easy. Close your eyes, point your camera and take a stunning photograph of either the pyramids or, just down the hill, the Sphinx.

What is impossible, however, for even the most sophisticated photographer to capture is the sheer visceral thrill of your first sight of the pyramids. Shut out of your mind the inevitable hawkers and lines of coaches, close your ears to the American tourists - and Liz Taylor and Richard Burton in Cleopatra will come to life in front of you. If you venture inside, don't be too disappointed by the dark simplicity of the crouched entrance. There are enough unexplained corridors leading off to right and left to conjure up stories of secret passages and stairways to Orion.

The tour that took me round all these places was run by a company called Imaginative Traveller - "for people without the imagination to travel by themselves" someone joked before I set off. In the end I'm very glad that I didn't have to think about booking rooms and organising transport: instead, my imagination was left free to roam across Wandering through these musty Egypt's extraordinary landscapes.



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Welcome to the promised land

Whether you're after shops, beaches, beauty treatments or desert treks, Tel Aviv has it all. By Gina Rozner

your base. The young city - 90 that are a shopper's delight. Tiny antique and craft shops are crammed between elegant establishments selling fur coats or diamonds, and there are myriad cafes sprawling across the pavements. Avoid the spartan ones, and opt instead for the more luxurious east-European numbers, where you can feast on cakes that would have put 19th-century Vienna to shame. If shopping isn't your bag, Tel Aviv is stiff with museums and galleries. And, if you're a seaside person, the beaches are pretty, if not beautiful, and far from crowded.

I rarely found the local people anything other than helpful and friendly. It's almost impossible to go into a café without somebody talking to you, streets, it's extremely pretty and a request for directions at and the high numbers of

IF YOU'RE going to Israel, it's the local shop can easily result no bad thing to make Tel Aviv in a heavy debate involving all its customers. The poor years old - is a fascinating economy and recent influx of combination of sophisticated immigrants means that your immigrants means that your metropolis and developing taxi driver is quite likely to be country with an effervescent an unemployed psychologist nightlife and streets - Dizen- with the ability to speak six off, Ben Yehuda and Allenby - languages. This makes for interesting cab rides, and can be a comfort if you find yourself in need of therapy. Israel is a small country, and the joy of Tel Aviv is its close

> proximity to, well, everywhere. The port of Jaffa is a couple of miles south of the city centre, a brisk 45-minute walk along the beach. This is one of the oldest cities in the world, and also one of the most beautiful. Destroyed by Napoleon, it was rebuilt at the beginning of the 19th century and ruled by the Ottomans until 1948. Today the centre has been restored and is awash with shops, galleries and studios selling jewellery, pottery, and paintings. Bars and restaurants are plentiful, too, but with its tiny stone



Enjoy the 'cosmetic benefits' of Dead Sea mud JDTP

here is expensive. In the actual port, where fish restaurants abound, although admittedly in much plainer surroundings,

visiting tourists mean that food you can get an enormous fish supper for 60 shekels (£10). Food in Israel is good and cosmopolitan. It's by no means all gefilte fish and meatballs.

Egypt: Alison Emmett paid £549

for a 15-night trip

to Egypt with

Imaginative

Traveller (0181-742 8612).

The price included BA

scheduled flights from

London to Cairo, internal

travel, accommodation,

admission to most sites,

The Egyptian State

on the Third Floor of

Egyptian House, 70

Tourist Office in the UK is

here, but fresh, succulent chunks of vegetables dressed in oil made from olives which may well have been crushed we drove down to the Ein Gedi between the thighs of virgins. Aviv via the outskirts of

The Israelis give new meaning

to the word salad. No limp

lettuce and tasteless tomatoes

Jerusalem takes you into the Judean Desert and the northern tip of the Dead Sea. The sheer awe-inspiring beauty of the desert is enough to make towered above us to our right, a thousand shades of cream and gold, while on our left glistening white salt rocks stood proudly out of the brilliant blue of the Dead Sea.

This is the lowest point on the face of the earth and it's salt cellar. famed for its health-giving properties: the air here contains 10 per cent more oxygen than the air over the Mediterranean.

The sea has a salt content nearly 10 times that of your average ocean and it's crammed to the gills with minerals. Natural hot sulphur

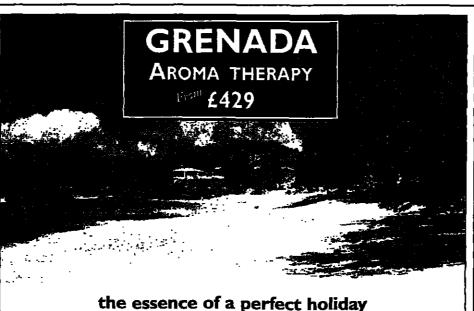
pressure, and the mineral-rich thick black mud that occurs on the shoreline has therapeutic properties as well as, and I quote, "cosmetic benefits". So Spa in a quest for better health

springs are said to lower blood

We emerged, some hours later, having soaked in the sulphur pools (wonderfully relaxing once you get over the smell); covered ourselves from head to foot in black mud; and you weep. The mountains undergone the ministrations of Danni, the resident masseur, a man with the bulk, sensitivity and touch of Mike Tyson.

Best of all, we floated in the sea, and yes, it really is possible to read a newspaper lying on your back in this waterlogged This is the non-claustro-

phobic version of a flotation tank, and it was a truly extraordinary experience. But next time I go to Israel, and there will be a next time, I'm determined to give up on the shopping, and trek through that desert instead.



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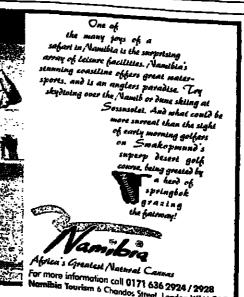
FACT FILE Piccadilly, London W1V

9DD. The brochure-andinformation line is now a premium-rate number: 0891 600 299, costing 60 pence British citizens require a visa, issued by the Visa

Section of the Egyptian Consulate-General at 2 Lowndes Street, London SW1X 9ET (0171-235 9777) You need a passport and a photograph; since the Luxor attack in 1997, the £15 visa fare has been waived.

Israel: Gina Rozner paid £802 for a seven-night trip to Tel Aviv with Longwood Holidays (0181-551 4494). The price included flights from Heathrow to Tel Aviv, and bed-and-breakfast accommodation at the Renaissance Tel Aviv Hotel. The current prices are £910 single or £637 twin.

The Israel Government Tourist Office in Britain is at UK House, 180 Oxford Street, London W1N 9DJ (0171-299 1111).



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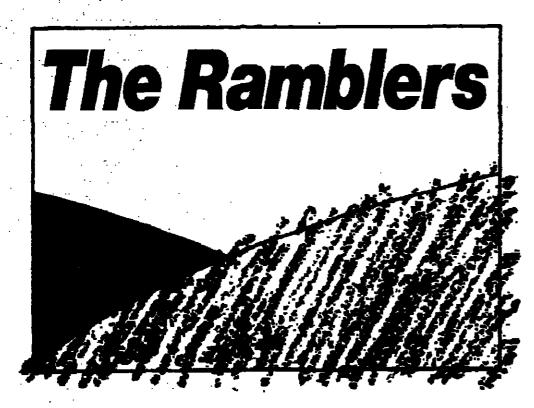
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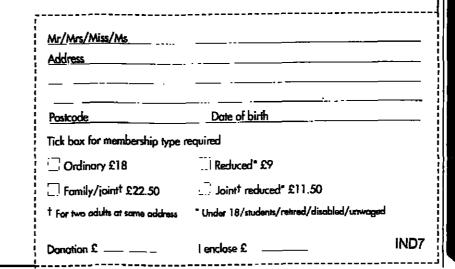


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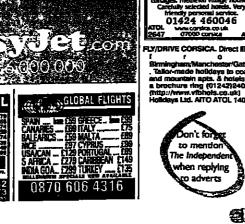
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A park on the wild side

At Britain's latest theme park, which opened yesterday, bugs run wild and motorists pay double. By Simon Calder

character Roland Rat came to the aid of the sinking ship that was TV-AM. Now tourism chiefs in South Yorkshire hope that a rotting rat will enhance the county's appeal.

The Doncaster area has not figured highly in my travel plans in the past. It is chiefly potable for possessing one of the most dismal junctions for hitchhiking in Britain (the A638/A1M intersection, if you care), and for the handsome Conisbrough Castle.

At about the time Roland Rat was gaining viewers and boosting earnings for Britain's commercial breakfast television station, the 12th-century castle keep was presiding over the degeneration of a community, and an industry. Denaby Main colliery, which previously sprawled across the north bank of the river Don, was a casualty of the collapse of the coal industry in the Eighties. The whole economic raison d'être of the community vanished, thousands were thrown out of work, and the future looked as bleak as the broad valley scarred by years of exploitation. The then prime minister, as I recall, mourned the passing of Roland Rat and TV-AM rather more than the death of Denaby Main and its neighbour Cadeby Colliery.

Putting a cost on such degeneration is impossible. The cost of regeneration, though, is clear: £40m. To build the first of three phases of the Earth Centre. the Millennium Commission paid half, with matching funds from local authorities and industry. Good Friday was an appropriate day to launch this theme park: the theme is the sins of

n the Eighties, the cartoon man against the planet, and the car park is miles away. Motorists take last place behind rail, bus and cycle travellers; then, when they get to the ticket office, they face the ignominy of paying nearly twice as much as those who arrive by more environmentally friendly means. The Earth Centre is largely about muck, and it doesn't muck about when professing its "green" credentials.

So is the place so suffocatingly earnest that a visit is about as interesting as been berated all day long by Swampy? No: you realise fun is to be had as soon as you climb aboard the name, this is a bizarre seven-person bicycle, where riders sit on saddles that ring a central chassis. The pedal power is pooled to steer a (wobbly) course whereby one person gets to steer and face forward, while everyone else has the unsettling experience of moving in a different direction to the one being pedalled. The Earth Centre certainly moved for me.

So far, no one has commandeered the Octos to explore the rest of the site - probably just as well, given the gradient at which the 400 acres of landscaped slag lean into the Don valley. "Site" is the right expression at the moment, since the scarred earth bearing the Earth Centre has the look of being several seasons short of a harvest. The most notable sproutings at present are non-organic; bright and bizarre sculptured trumpets along the Japanese-inspired Rokkaku Trail.

Sir Walter Scott once described this part of Yorkshire as "the most strik-



"Octos" - despite the Latin root of the Pod-u-like: there are all kinds of weird things to do at the Earth Centre

England", which suggests he didn't get around much. The Earth Centre is an attempt at some natural healing after centuries of full-on exploitation.

Inside the space-age modules that dot the once-scorched earth, you discover an inspired series of exhibits detailing man's relation with the planet and cautioning future generations about the high stakes for which the people of the 21st century will play. An international squad of designers has been brought in to provide dramatic. thought-provoking exhibits about the grievous bodily harm wrought on Earth by, for example, the fossil fuels that once conferred a degree of affluence upon Conisbrough.

Ashes to ashes, dust to dust which brings us back to that rotting rat. The bugs have largely taken over the microcosm of planet Earth found at DN12 4EA. They reign supreme on the cadaver of the unfortunate rodent besides "healthy food which sustains

decomposing in the Nature Works cabin. Here, a former miner, Steve Bedford Clark, has concocted a giant version of a biology experiment of the kind you'd never be allowed to conduct at school. In the creepy-crawly room, he says, the aim is to create a DIY food chain: "There's a huge great tube that contains lovely green algae. Next to that's a cone with some smaller invertebrates, and then we've got pond

boxes of varying sizes. Get a jamjar,

go to the taps that are attached, and

build your own freshwater food chain."

It's bug-eat-bug in here. And after all

that, the brew is released back to the

wild, or at least into the pond outside. If you prefer to eat and drink from a more conventional catering outlet, you're in luck. The caterer at the Earth Centre is Yorkshire's celebrated restaurateur. Michael Gill. His cafe is named eatorganic@ earthcentre, and,

it offers the most politically correct range of coffee I have ever seen, including New Guinea Organic.

Refreshed spiritually as well as physically, you are ready to visit the cathedral-sized limestone shell opposite for the most dramatic feature in the entire place. The Planet Earth Experience uses a cathedral-sized area to combines sound, light and detritus from man's rampage through the planet. Imaginative; inspired; enough?

To become a successful tourist attraction these days, the Earth Centre will need to compete hard to justify the huge investment; not just with places like Alton Towers, but with the Meadowhall shopping centre and even poor old Doncaster Rovers FC. Its chief executive, Jonathan Smales, believes it can. "It's a pretty sexy day out at the Earth Centre - pleasure with purpose."

The Earth Centre (01709 512000) opens ing and beautiful landscape in all of (let's call him Roland), who is busily you and the planet without ill-effect", 10am-6pm; £4.95 (£8.95 for car users)

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SOME OF the most prominent Millennium Projects are concerned with understanding the Earth, and the Universe. Each one in this selection is given a parallel from the world of television to help you get a better idea of what they're on about: if the Earth Centre, left, were a TV programme, it would be The Good Life. You get the picture.

National Space Science Centre: This space odyssey in Leicester opens in February 2001. The design of the building will make imaginative use of an imaginative site and will include a tower which will house real rockets." One of the components is imaginatively called the Millennium Dome. If it were a TV programme, the NSSC would be Star Trek. More details: 0116-285 6734, nssc.star.le.ac

International Centre for Life: Newcastle-upon-Tyne becomes home to "a totally new way of looking at life" in April 2000, incorporating a motion simulator, virtual reality and live theatre. If it were a TV programme, it would be Blake's 7. Contact: 0191-261 6006 or www.lifesecret.co.uk

The National Discovery Centre: "The concept is built around the rapid growth in IT, broadcasting and multimedia, linked with public discovery." The centrepiece of this Liverpool attraction is a Space Time Machine, intended to educate and entertain on the history of time. If it keeps to time, the place will open in December 2001. If it were a TV programme, it would be Doctor Who. More details: 0151-709 6271.

The Eden Project: "A world-class landmark project that will demonstrate and explore the relationship between plants and humans" and, from April 2000, will handily occupy a workedout clay-pit near St Austell, Cornwall. Four distinct environments – desert, rainforest. Mediterranean and temperate - will feature appropriate fauna. If it were a TV programme, it would be Gardeners' World. Call 01726 222 900, or www.edenproject.com

Discovery Centre: "The Midlands' project to celebrate the year 2001 and beyond", assuming it opens on schedule in autumn of that year. In Birmingham, Nicholas Grimshaw is designing a flagship building for the manufacturing heart of the country. Science and technology combine with the region's industrial heritage; £50m is being spent in reprvenating the dismal Digbeth area, to be known henceforth as Millennium Point (which you may have thought was in Greenwich). If it were a TV programme, it would be Tomorrow's World (which just happens to be one of the exhibits). Call 0121-303 2983.

Dynamic Earth: Opening on 3 July 1999 opposite the new Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh. It promises "90 minutes of thrilling entertainment with cutting-edge scientific thinking... Visitors will experience the thrill of travelling back in time and feeling the 'Restless Earth' volcano erupting beneath their feet". If it were a TV programme, it would be The Restless Earth. Call 0131-550 7800, www.dynamicearth.co.uk

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Prince presents a forbidding face to arriving visitors, a kind of South Armagh with palm trees. Blue-

helmeted UN soldiers guard airport compounds and fires burn in the shanty towns that line the road from the Dominican Republic. As I stepped out of the air-conditioned bus into the fetid heat of downtown, I was grateful for the advice of my fellow passengers. "Go to Pétion-Ville," they said. "Find a hotel, come

Pétion-Ville is the classy part of

town. A pleasant suburb of Port-au-Prince, though once a separate

entity, it straddles a ridge more

than 1,000ft above sea-level. Finding

a taxi to take me up the 10-mile road

was easy. Persuading the driver to

stick to the agreed price was far

This was my first experience of one of Haiti's many paradoxes. It is an appealingly schizophrenic place

- the western hemisphere's poorest

nation, where you can spend £200 on

a meal; a fertile paradise, with catastrophic deforestation; a tribal

African culture flourishing under

skills. The presence of so many UN

and aid workers on expense accounts consequently means that

a short taxi ride costs the equivalent

In the morning, the view was stunning. Port-au-Prince lies at the head of a broad bay, surrounded by mountains. From Pétion-Ville, the

whole panorama lies spread out before you. I was itching to explore.

Careful not to make the same

expensive mistake twice, I joined the

throng of people waiting for a tap-

tap, the ubiquitous local transport.

These brightly painted pickup trucks

carry as many passengers as can be

crammed in the back. Sixteen of us

got out at the market, the street that

by night had looked grim and

forbidding was now transformed

into a maeistrom of colour and

of one month's wages for the

Despite being so vividly poor, Port-au-Prince is not cheap. Haiti is the nearest place to the USA where junior CIA men and well-meaning missionaries can practise their

back in the morning."

more problematic.

Caribbean skies.

ordinary Haitian.

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Hop on hop off Africa What began as long overland journeys from London to Cape Town across the heart of Africa taking several months have shrunk into shorter journeys of five or six weeks through the cream of popular Africa, taking

in the eastern reaches of great game-viewing, stunning African vistas and a rapidly changing African countryside. But a disadvantage of overland travel remains the combination of time and the huge distances travelled. Schedules have to be maintained whilst keeping up the interest, with majority rule prevailing among the paying customers. Desires change and nowadays many overlanders want more

I have often felt confined by conventional overland truck travel, when there is no chance for another day or two at a particular location. Returning to a place for a second visit, you often lose the impact of the first. A solution could be "hop-on,

say in their own schedule.

hop-off" travel through southern and eastern Africa - combining the overland experiences at a pace suited to individual tastes. A company called Truck About (0171-536 9316) has just begun such a service, mimicking similar operations elsewhere. The company's Angela Mullen says, "People like independence, but also want the security of

being in an established group." The principle is the same as used when city sightseeing across the world, but transposed to Africa. Trucks operate to a fixed schedule. Passengers get on and off at will, with a fresh truck passing every couple of days. The two crew on board each vehicle take care of all the border formalities - a godsend for the inexperienced traveller and will guide you through the processes should you wish to sample travelling beyond the reach of the passes on your own.

You buy a colour-coded pass: the cheapest option is the £99 blue pass, starting in Nairobi, valid for four weeks and covering Kenya and Tanzania only. It would ideally suit those who have limited time and budget and want the most out of the wildlife reserves and still have time to climb Kilimanjaro and visit Zanzibar. At the other end commencing in Nairobi and valid

Hop off the bus to climb Mount Kilimanjaro

noise. Pounding music blared from

giant loudspeakers. Thousands of

frenzied stall holders hawked every-

thing from pineapples to single-

old Iron Market. Topped with

minaret-style towers and elegant

even in decay, this rusting hall is a

surprising haven from the chaos

outside. Shafts of dusty sunlight

penetrate the cool, dark interior,

revealing mounds of spices, speci-

men jars full of pickles and a caged

A little way from the market I

found the Cathedral of the Trinity. A

solitary organist thundered with

great agility in the empty space. Vast

murals decorated the walls around

the altar, luscious biblical scenes

market places, all in vibrant colours

I ate lunch in a small restaurant

tucked in a dusty courtyard, the food reflecting Haiti's turbulent past.

and dynamic brush strokes.

o with native symbols and

gallery of condemned chickens.

The crush was thickest near the

of the price spectrum, a nineweek red version, also for Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Botswana, costs £485. Given the uncertainties of travel in East Africa, tragically illustrated by last week's crash on the Nairobi-Mombasa railway, there is a lot to be said for the security of this means of transport. But for Botswana and Zimbabwe (covered, along with Zambia, in a "green pass"), you would need to compare prices and flexibility with the generally reliable local

transport system. Hop on hop off worldwide Britain and Ireland The bus service formerly known as Slow Coach has become the

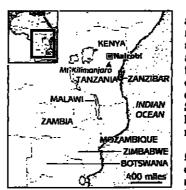
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This is African cooking with a hotels. Graham Greene set The

distinctly French flavour. The only

nation founded as a result of slave

rebellion, Haiti declared indepen-

dence from France in 1804. A

century of civil strife was followed

by American invasion and

occupation. Several despots followed

the US withdrawal until "Papa Doc"

Duvalier was elected President in

1957. The Duvaliers, father and son.

wielded power through the brutal

Tontons Macoute militia until "Baby

military dictatorships, disputed

elections, coups and bloodshed on

a horrifying scale. The situation at

the moment, though far from ideal,

is at least one of uneasy calm.

One of the beneficiaries of more

HOP ON, HOP OFF

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Travel restrictions if

Since the fall of the Duvaliers, Haiti has seen a succession of

Doc" fled for France in 1986.

Comedians here, and there is still

some of the old magic about the

place. However, as I drank cocktails

on the veranda I noticed how self-

consciously eccentric all the trap-

pings feel. The kitsch trinkets that

cover the walls were dated even

The Oloffson, and other large

gingerbread-style houses on the

hills around Port-au-Prince, are a

throwback to the distant days of com-

parative prosperity in Haiti, but the

stinking filth of the shanty towns is

a reminder that for most Haitians,

Catholic cathedral. This great twin-

spired Battenburg cake dominates

the skyline, but around its walls,

I was ready at the bus station in

peaceful times is the Hotel Oloffson, good time for the 7am "Gloria pin, ever higher past villages where

the grande dame of Port-au-Prince Superbus" to Cap Haītien. At tiny thatch-roofed houses huddled

ed in the **rotting garbage lies ma**r

early 1990s are now lifted and the au- and smoke from burning litter drifts

thorities are encouraging tourism. lazily over the manicured gardens.

The contrast is greatest by the

today's reality is very different.

when Greene stayed here.

Love, Haiti and the £200 lunch

Poor but expensive, fertile but deforested, this beautiful Caribbean island still has much to offer. By Richard Naisby

Passes last for from two weeks to six months with a variety of routes offering access to more than 60 cities and towns throughout Europe. There are connecting links to additional destinations including Ibiza, the Greek islands, Morocco, Turkey and Scandinavia. Departures are every two days on most circuits. A 15-day pass costs £249, and an unlimited pass £895. Call 0171-950 1661, or www.busabout.com

Fez Travel offers hop on hop off in Turkey between 27 April and 26 October, with timed options of either 12 days, two months, or from your first journey until the end of the season on 26 October. Prices begin at £89 for a 12-day pass, but an all-season pass costs only £30 more. Call 01710-706 1539, e-mail feztravel@fez travel.com, or visit www.

The people behind Oz and Kiwi Experience claim to have developed the idea first, when they began the hop-on hop-off experience in New Zealand back in 1989. The twin companies now offer a variety of passes and packages, ranging from travellers buying single sectors (from £60 in Australia) to a year of unlimited stops (in one direction of travel only) for £480.

Australia and New Zealand

Departures from major cities are almost daily. They follow set routes, making the best of the scenic, cultural and natural attractions these countries have to offer. In Australia, only the east coast and the centre are covered, but the North and South Islands of New Zealand have reasonably thorough

12.30pm we trundled slowly out of

the bus station, as the driver gave

one last melancholic, but ear-

shrines and out onto the coastal

plain. The landscape here is dry.

barren scrubland, ravaged by

deforestation. The beaches beside

the road are long, white and blind-

ing - and completely empty. North

Marc, the road deteriorates into a

rutted track where small tornadoes

whip up dust. At length, the road im-

proved, turned inland and began

climbing. Haiti is the most moun-

tainous country in the Caribbean.

and as the temperature freshened,

it became obvious why this country

Huge tree ferns overhang the

road as it climbs, hairpin after hair-

as once the mosi

in the Americas.

the scrofulous town of Saint-

The road passed through the

orst of the slums, past voodoo

shattering blast on the horn.

networks. A single sector in NZ is below £30, while £220 buys the whole country, starting anywhere and returning to the same place. Single sector "Onepasses" must be brought outside either country. Website: www.ozex.

Southern Africa Baz Bus covers southern Africa, from Victoria Falls on the 2:mbabwe-Zambia border to Cape Town in South Africa passing through Mozambique and Swaziland. Departures are almost daily. Costs range from £130 one way from Victoria Falls to Cape Town, down to £85 from Cape Town to Durban. Website: www.bazbus.com

The Us Bus offers flexipasse with fixed departure and drop-off points. Accommodation is usually in hostels. Where these aren't available, they use a variety of inexpensive motels. private hostelries and cabins. The shorter East Coast Explorer route from Boston to New York via Cape Cod costs £59. For £259 you can go coast to coast. Us Bus can be reached on 01892 532060, or e-mailed at TheUsbusia attnet or

amaduk@attmail.com All these companies are also bookable through STA Travel (0171-361 6161), Adventure Travel Centre (0171-370 4555), Backpackers (0171-706 1539) and Global Connect (0171-371 6300)

GEOFFREY ROY



No 9: Sisal

Journey to the source

Once a highly respected - and

sought-after - raw material in the

around bucolic rough-stone church-

es. At the summit, the view opens to

a vast panorama of the northern

coast, serried ranges of green hills

stretching off towards the dark blue

Five hours from Port-au-Prince,

the bus pulled to a halt in Cap Hai-

tien. The second city of Haiti, it feels

immediately friendlier than the

capital. The tiled roofs and arcades

lend a Spanish air to the streets, but

roadside boucheries des chevolines

and boulangeries are a reminder

that, 200 years ago, this was the last

town in French hands. In a state

founded through slave rebellion, it

is ironic that the best-known, most

spectacular destination was built by

forced labour for a black king.

Citadelle La Ferrière is a massive

ciii-top fortress, erected between

one of the revolutionary leaders.

waters of the Atlantic Ocean.

THE SHOPPING **FORECAST**

1804 and 1817 for Henri Christophe, within a year he was back. For all its

through the palace of Sans-Souci, and Columbus knew a good thing

built to rival Versailles, but these when he saw it.

The way to the citadel passes a beautiful and intriguing country.



days long ruined. The path climbed

steeply through lush forests of

bananas, oranges and guava. Tiny

hummingbirds flitted through the

shadows and I was followed by

charming, wide-grinning children.

They cannot speak English, but the

one word they do know, "Dollar",

gaunt, stark and utterly unassailable.

From the ramparts, I could see

deep into the Haitian central

plateau. Cannon batteries guarded the view towards Cap Haitien and

the coast. In the distance lay a

deep, protected anchorage, but the

shelter is deceptive. In this bay, on

Christmas Day, 1492, the Santa

Maria, Columbus's flagship, sank in

a storm. Columbus may not have

found the way to Asia he sought, but

foibles and contradictions, Haiti is

Finally the castle appeared,

they chant.

West, sisal these days has been relegated to producing such frivolous items as bags, baskets and fashionable flooring. As soon as nylon was invented, its days as the substance behind sturdy sacking and rope were numbered, not least because the crop requires such

from planting to harvesting (itself highly labour-intensive) - and man-made fibres are inevitably cheaper to produce. In Kenya, however, sisal has always remained important. The crop can cope with unre-

liable water supplies and

infertile soil and is a ver-

a large amount of invest-

ment - it takes six years

satile resource for local people, as well as providing a useful supply of baskets, bags and mats for visiting tourists. If you want to see sisal production at its source, fly to Mombasa and journey out to Jumba la Mtwana, a national monument 13km beyond the coastal city. The site, once a slavetrading settlement, was recently excavated and is now run by the National Museums of Kenya. According to the Footprint Guide to East Africa (£14.99), a small entrance fee buys you visiting rights to three mosques, a number of tombs

locations, close to a beach

and eight houses, as well as a wan-

with shady baobab trees. Don't stay too long though, because a little further north, alongside Kikambala beach, you'll come to the Vipingo Sisal Estates (00 254 12 532 204) with fields and fields of spiky green sisal

The property includes sisal factories, housing for the workers and mango and cashew plantations. From the road, you can see the leaves being cut by hand. Tours are sometimes possible, by prior arrange-

ment On the way back to Mombasa. just outside Mamba, is the Bombolulu Craft Centre (00 254 11 471 704) where, for 320 shillings (£3.20), you can do a tour of the workshops.

The centre is open from 8am to 5pm and you can buy good-quality sisal baskets here at prices from approximately 960 shillings (£9.60) each. In the UK, a large, bright sisal basket from House (01258 454884 for

mail order) costs £13.25, so buy 115 in Kenya and sell them to your friends back home. You'll make enough profit to pay for the latest deal from The Holiday Place (0171-431 0670): 14 nights halfboard accommodation at the Plaza Beach Hotel in Mombasa for £419, leaving Gatwick on 11 April - and

Gadget of the week For those who feel the need to dress well on holiday this week's gadget could become a necessity. The Shirt Press's 60 different pure cotton shirts, they say, never need ironing.
You simply wash them, hang
them up to dry overnight and put them on, crease-free, in the morn-

return next year.

and can be sent via mail order on 0171-430 1433 RHIANNON BATTEN

ing. The shirts cost from £60 each





PROBLEM OF THE SECTION

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Practice Charles and

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Francis Control

FKEND REVIEW



48 hours ... in Barcelona

Want to party like it's 1899? In his city guide to the Catalan capital, David Sandhu commends absinthe and antiques



The most important blades of grass in Catalonia undoubtedly lie within the onfines of the Camp Nou Stadium (19 Barcelona Football Club, one of the world's biggest clubs (130,000 nembers), celebrates its centenary this ear. And celebrate is the word if Barcelona, as expected, clinch the Spanish championship in June. Matches usually take place on Sunday afternoons (the next home match is 4 April against Real Oviedo). They provide an excuse for gratuitous displays of fancy dress and Catalan nationalistic

there's always the museum. Have your picture taken next to the replica 1992 European Cup, watch vintage footage of former glories and, best of all, behold the Camp Nou itself, Catalonia's

The no-frills options are on Debonais (0541 500300) from Luton and for mid-week departures or for bookings made a long way in advance. but fares can rise sharply for peak weekend departures and for shortnotice bookings. The with-frills scheduled airlines are British Airways (0345 222111) and Iberia (0171-830 0011) from Gatwick and Heathrow. Trains run from Barcelona airport to the Placa Catalunya every half-hour, taking 25 minutes and costing around

A walk in the park

pride, although die-hard fans bemoan the lack of Catalans among the squad. If you're can't make a live match,

Beam Down Gatwick, and easylet (0870 600 0000) from Luton. Expect to pay £100 or less Why go now?

The Med is warming up quite nicely and, since the air-fares war is going to take place over Spain this summer, with a bit of planning you shouldn't need to pay much more than £100 return to fly there rather less than you would have paid 15 years ago. The Spanish football season is beginning to reach its climax with local heroes FC Barcelona looking good for the championship.



Gran Via Corts catalanes

An aperitif Do you want to party like its 1899? Barcelona is one of the few places where bars still sell absinthe, the 70per-cent-proof green alcohol containing wormwood. Recently, however, the scourge of 19th-century Parislan poets has enjoyed something of a revival and has been Imported by some adventurous British bar owners. If you're feeling particularly Bohemian. it's worth stopping off at Bar Marsella 📵 on Carrer Sant Pau for a shot of locally brewed absenta

Sunday morning, go to church

Probably the most famous - and controversial work-in-progress on earth is the Temple Explator de la Sagrada Familla 🕡, Gaudi's unfinished symphony to his enduring Catholic faith. It remains under construction 73 years after Gaudi's death. One of the best views is from the Placa Gaudi 🚱 at the back of the building but there are no bad views of a structure that combines detail with breathtaking scale. Open every day and visited by millions, it's one of Europe's must-see buildings and, after a pilgrimage, you'll be grateful the anarchists didn't blow it up, as threatened, during the Spanish Civil War.

lcing on the cake During working hours, take the lift to the 21st floor of the Banco Atlantico building (Avenue Diagonal 407) and make your way to the public toilets. From

this unlikely location, savour your last fix of this addictive city, with or without spending a peseta. Avinguda Roma

Get your bearings Barcelona is an easy city to navigate, especially on foot. The airport bus drops you conveniently at Placa Catalunya 🛈 , the beating heart of the city. Ignore the huge Marks & Spencer store: instead. remind yourself you're in Catalonia with a walk down Barcelona's main drag. La Rambia 2, the pedestrianised boulevard that bisects the old town and runs down to the port. A mile in length, it can feel longer depending on your fondness for caged

Avinguda Mistral Take a hike Losing yourself in the Barri Gotic 1 is the quickest way of immersing yourself in the sounds and smells of this living. breathing industrial port. Avoid fellow tourists with a quick dash down a dark alley, but whichever route you take, you'll eventually emerge into one of the area's little squares framed by cafés and bars. You'll soon realise, without the need for plaques or guidebooks, that the Barri Gotic boasts one of the highest concentrations of medieval buildings in Europe.

birds and mime artists.

Consell de Cent

Ronda Litoral

Picasso or Gaudi? Tough choice. If you can resist the comprehensive collection of Pablo's early paintings, drawings and sketches at the Museu Picasso (15-19 Calle Montcada 15-19, 00 34 93 319 6310), you won't be disappointed by the aesthetic rewards on the trail of Antonio Gaudi, the local architect whose visionary work was once described by Salvador Dali as "a tactile erogenous zone which bristles like a sea urchin". Marvel at the form, function and flights of fancy of his last two secular projects, the Casa Batllo 🧿 (built 1904-6) and La Pedrera (1906-10), two buildings that straddle the Passeig de Gracia in the graceful Elxample district (1), the commercial hub of the city. Casa Batllo is pure Hansel and Gretel, its façade and roof invoking a battle between St George and the dragon but before you've time to rationalise it all, you reach La Pedrera where you're squeezed into a tiny lift and whisked up to Salon Gaudi, seven floors up. Up the spiral staircase, grotesque sentinel chimneys stand guard over the warped beauty of an undulating roofscape: it's as if you've landed on Planet Gaudi. And, if the alien environment fails to overwhelm your senses, then the panoramic view of Barcelona will.

Las Rambia is Barcelona's main boulevard



Lunch on the run is there anything more satisfying than alfresco paratas bravas (fat chips in hot pepper sauce) washed down with a swift Estrella lager? The everyday snack is sold at virtually every café and tapas bar, but it's worth remembering that tapas are not part of Catalonia's culinary tradition - the city's tapas bars are more a response to visitors' expectations than residents' needs.

The Barri Gotic, as you might expect, is a rich source of antiques. Small, idosyncratic and eccentric shops peddle bric-a-brac of varying quality around Calle de la Palla (P.

CUITAT VELLA

Window shopping

Demure dinner Madrid-Barcelona ((Arago 282) was formerly a station café when the railway line ran through here. Fifty years later, you would hardly guess its prosaic origins. A stylish refurbishment has brought a crowd of trendy(ish) young locals for a mixture of Catalan and modern Med dishes. Prices are reasonable (about £10 per head including wine) and portions are healthy, but arrive after 10pm or, as elsewhere in the city, you'll be starved of atmosphere. If it's seafood you're after - and the baccala (Atlantic salt cod) is not to be missed – a stroll along Port Vell (F). particularly the Palau de Mar (.ar the eastern end of the port offers a range of fishy suppers. (However, eating at this time is considerably more expensive than the lunchtime set menus.)

Check in Barcelona is popular with visitors throughout the year and booking accommodation is always a good

idea. The flash Hotel Arts (Carrer de Marina 19-21, 00 34 93 318 1900) is for those with sufficient cash (about £185 per night) to afford the location in the 1992 Olympic Village, the rooftop pool and the unrivalled sea/city views. Hotel Granvia 4 (Gran Via de les Corts Catalanes, 00 34 93 412 1115) is a more traditional hotel, dating back to 1935, that offers three-star service and a great position just off eig de Gracia 🗗, for about £90. Hostal Orleans 6 (Avda Marques de l'Argentera 13. 00 34 93 319 7382) offers dimly-lit, clean, safe rooms for a relative bargain £20 per night.

0.5 miles

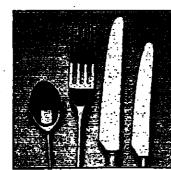
If it's seafood you're after, stroll along Port Vell

GLOBAL AGENDA

New York According to curator Richard Martin, the theme of the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Our New Clothes: Acquisitions of the 1990s exhibition, is "the best-of-the-best fashion as we have acquired it over the past decade". It revives a tradition of the Met's Costume Institute from the 1930s and 1940s by giving the museum a chance to display items that have been recently added to its collection. Sponsored by New York's fashion temple, Barneys – which will be mounting a window display based on the exhibition - the show is built around motifs such as "American Heroes", featuring designers Geoffrey Beene, Calvin Klein and Giorgio di Sant'Angelo. Those looking for inspiration on how to where a white dress (one of this season's must-haves) should start in the fifth gallery which is entirely devoted to the subject: examples range from 1800 through Victorian times to the present day. Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1000 Fifth Avenue, New York. USA (00 1 212 535 7710) from 6 April 22 August, suggested

The National Museums'

donation \$10



Weekend, organised by the **Dutch Museum Pass** Foundation, is proving a popular incentive to hot foot it across the North Sea. Now in its 19th year, the goal is to encourage those who would never usually set foot in a museum to come in and see what they've been missing. More than 550 museums will be taking part in the event this year and at least two thirds will be waiving entrance fees for the weekend, the remainder offering a discount. Various venues (00 31 20 670 1111) 10-11 April

Sheffield Although best known for cutlery (pictured), the designer David Mellor is also responsible for design concepts behind everyday street furniture as pillar boxes and traffic lights.

The Real David Mellor: Master Metalworker, a major retrospective at Sheffield's Mappin Art Gallery, seeks to reveal why, in a profession noted for the ephemeral nature of its "stars", Mellor has attained a lasting appeal. One reason for his success is his functional approach to design, which has not only produced such modern classics as his 1953 "Pride" range of cutlery but also the award-winning Round Building in Hathersage near Sheffield. Mappin Art Gallery, 101 Norfolk Street, Sheffield (0114 203 9416) from today until 20 June, closed Mon and Tue, free

Finland A reindeer isn't just for the Christmas run. Competitive Finns have been attaching sleighs to their native mammals all through the winter in order to be up to speed for this weekend's big event. The Reindeer Kingship Cup is the highlight of a racing programme that is now in its 48th year. If you join the spectators in Inari, make sure you take some loose cash so that you can place a bet. Inori, Finland (Finnish Tourist Board: 0171-839 4048) today and tomorrow

SHARON GETHINGS

es.kreuz@eunet.at Transport: the hotel is on the edge of the pedestrianised centre of Innsbruck, and walking distance from all the main sights: in fact you can see most of the them from your room, if it faces the right way. The hotel has

groups of carved wooden chairs. The location is ideal: Herzog-Friedrich-

tains, is a 20-minute walk away.

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION Gasthof-hotel Weisses Kreuz, Herzog-

Friedrichstrasse 31. A-6020 Innsbruck/

24-HOUR ROOM SERVICE: WEISSES KREUZ, INNSBRUCK

Altstadt, 00 43 512 59479; e-mail hotel.weiss-

its own garage, but otherwise buses and taxis

can stop at a visitors' assembly point at the

Time from airport: 10 minutes; the airport

Time from station: five minutes by cab, 10

is two miles from the city centre.



THE IDEA that Mozart slept at the Weisses Kreuz hotel - in the days when dormitories were more common than private rooms - was one of many appealing factors (even though the comp_ser's lodging is now the owner's office). But I was horrified,

at first, to find myself entering the hotel through what seemed like the servants' quarters. In fact the front door takes you into the area where the horses used to be kept - travelling in the 15th century, when the Weisses Kreuz first started receiving visitors, was a very different business - and the reception is on the second floor.

Once you are inside, it is difficult not to be taken with the easy charm of the Weisses Kreuz. It was built around a central courtyard and, although that has now gone, the internal windows have been preserved. A fountain spouts away next to the reception desk. The restaurant is a series of stube, smallish. Tyrolean-style rooms, each with a wooden bench running around the walls, and

strasse is a continuation of the main Maria-Theresien-Strasse in the heart of the old city. just down the road from the famous Golden Roof and round the corner from the Hofburg and the other main sights. The Hungerburg cable-car, which takes you into the moun-

COMFORTABLY?

end of the street.

minutes on foot.

ARE YOU LYING

Beds: Standard-size doubles or singles, made up with large Austrian duvets and two pillows for each person. When I asked for an extra blanket, I was offered a choice of wool or feather, and a second duvet arrived within minutes. Since the building is an ancient one

that has been modernised, the rooms vary in size; the best is No 403, which, apart from being large and comfortably furnished, has a bay window with a stunning view up and down the street, with snow-capped mountains as backdrop in both directions. Freebies: soap and shampoo; this is not the place to come if you want to replenish your supply of cosmetics. Temperature: the radiators in the bedroom

and bathroom could be switched on or off. Bathroom: some rooms only have a shower, others have a bath with shower attachment.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Television: NBC is the only English-language station. There is a large selection of programmes from all over Europe, but nothing from the UK.

Radio: in every room, although I couldn't make mine work, so it was difficult to tell what range of stations might be available. Phone/fax/Internet: there is a phone in every room. Fax and Internet are available only at reception.

Newspapers: a selection of local papers and Austrian dailies is available in the diningroom at breakfast time. When I asked for something in English, I was told that nothing could be delivered before 9am.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Double rooms range between 1,060AS (£53) and 1,300AS in the low season, with prices in the high season only slightly higher. This inchides tax, service, and a substantial buffet breakfast. A space in the private garage costs

I'm not paying that: book for three nights or more, and you get a 10 per cent discount. CATHY PACKE TEL: 0171 293 2222

seeking

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25-40, with similar interests,
who can restore her taith in
men. Hampshire. 12*6034
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Brotht curvaceous, viva-

Bright, curvaceous, viva-cious, mischievous, sultry, dark-eyed Italian lady, 30s,

seeks (all, handsome, pro-tessional male, for long-term relationship. \$26041 LOOKING FOR YOU

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sional, with two grown sons and green card, who loves the arts, snow and sea and adventures of the mind, body

Successful, dynamic, sim, professional woman, works hard, plays hard, seeks similar male 40s-50s into classi-

MADRID/BARCELONA

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Tender Latin temale warrior,
30, desires charming, carng
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Intelligent, slim and pretty female, in early 40s, into spiritual growth, bookshops, country walks, afternoon lea

Intelligent, sensitive male, 44-60, who also enjoys cinema, theatre and music, for triendship and romance.

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ship leading to a lasting relationship 125842

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Silm male. 44, 52°, arts
postgraduate, enjoys singing,
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red wine, seeks fun female,
born year of dog/figer, or
between 35-45! E London/n
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THE WEEKEND REVIEW
The Independent, 4 April 1999

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CREATIVE AND STYLISH
Attractive, sfim, caring, independent brunette, 47, foreign national, professional, enjoys opera, classical music, travel seeks matter well-educated seeks mature, well-educated sincere, professional male. sincere, professional mak 48-55, for friendship and hopefully love. 255934 Call Now! To respond to any Voice Personals' ad call

89065 547 142 Calls cost 11 per movde at all fores GENUINE LADY Christian temale, 25, 5'3", suburmblue, N/S, enjoys eat-ing out and having tun, seeks decemt Christian guy, 25-30, N/S, tor friendship/ relationship. Learnington and 35'580" to explore the great outdoors 125897 MAN WITH QUALITIES?

Unconventional Continental brunette, late 40s. tall, slim, N/S, intellectual/arts inter-N/S, inhalicatual/arts inter-ests/profession, enjoys cut-doors, seeks tall graduate, professional male, 45-55, emotionally literate, tively mind, similar interests. Berks/Oxon/Ldn. \$25636

Big, jolly, attractive woman graduate, 51, looks younger, seeks male companion, for conversation, films, theatra. art, music, gardening, DfY, countryside. Warm heart, cold feet. 12/5891 ONE MAN AND HIS DOG Man with dog sought by recently bereaved labrador owner, 45+, N/S, with good brain and looks, London/ M25, 1275901

VET
Or at least animal-loving,
professional male, sought by
Plymouth-based, triflingual
graduate, 50+, with GSOH,
fond of travel, film. literature,
swimming, walks, horse riding, 125835

LONDON LADY...
...50, with various interests, including cinema, music, travel, eating and drinking, traves, eating and dimining getting out of London official Seeks intelligent man with similar interests. \$2509 SUSSEX WOMAN Graduate lady, very young 55, 58", slim, fit, attractive, into jazz, all the arts, travel, walks, cycling, swimming, seeks tall, sorted male, similar age and interests, for friendship. 12:5836

LOOKING FOR MR RIGHT Female, 25, 57°, slim, blonde, blue eyes, very altractive. loves pubs, clubs, music, seeks a young male, 19-30, looks unimportant. Any area, 13:5769 SUCCESSIONAL SINGLE If you're an unattached male 30s, attractive, creative and intelligent, into music, clubs, conversation, travel, theatre. would like to hear from you.

HAPPY OPTIMEST
Attractive, slim, furnry, unconventional female, 34, interesting, intelligent, creative, aducated, loves readanve, sourcared, loves reso-ing, laughing, the arts, coun-tryside and cities, travel, staying at home, seeking a compatible male, under 55. 225910

DELICIOUS BRUNETTE With poise and smouldering looks, is seeking one very tabulous, tall, charismatic stul man. 35-45. and succes to work her lite out with. ANYBODY UP NORTH?

Warm, cuddy, lively woman, 42, 5', blonde, blue eyes, intelligent, likes music, food, countryside, travel, motorcycles, seeking an intelligent, witty, sensitive man, to coax out the goddess within. Cumbria/N Lancs, 1375850 NOT MUCH TO ASK

Tall, attractive, slim white temale, 43, seeking a tall, attractive black male, 30-40, for genuine TLC. \$25837 HELP - NORTH WEST Two attractive, happy, intelli-gent South Cumbria lemales, 34/45, seek two similar dark, under 45, 5'8"+. 22:5705

VINCE Please call again - I could not not vour number and

SPECIAL MOMENTS
Cuddly, warm, attractive,
intelligent female, 46, needs to give and receive lots of TLC, seeks affectionate. confident male, with a good Sense of fun and adventure.
Mid Wales preferably but can travel. 12:5689

LIFE IS GOOD...

It can get better! Enjoy weekends in Spain, winters in Jamaica/Florida. Fit these into your busy schedule? Attractive, professional, forty Amazinve, professional, vory-something, ebony temale, looks 30, seeks confident, professional white male, 40-45, well travelled, strong, spiritual values, to share the better times. 225768 EMPTY ROOMS Intelligent, blonde single mum, 40, 56, slim build graduate, enjoys science fic-tion, rock music, offbeat humour, politics, animals, home life, seeking a deep-thinking, intelligent male, 35-45, for a fusion of minds.

GLOBALLY-MANDED Postgrad, universal woman seeks renaissance man. Well, at least, stylish, self-Tall, silm, professional female, 35, seeks soul mate employed, green-eyed garnine type, 54, with keen sense of purpose, seeks are ative, communicative, emotionally-evolved, energetic friend/fellow adventurer.

₹5750 INCURABLE ROMANTIC Caring, intelligent and attrac-tive female, mid-40s, N/S, into spiritual growth, enjoys cinama, languages, theatre, music, bookshops, country gardens and afternoon tea, seeks kind, intelligent, sensi-tive male, 44-57, for triend-ship and romance. Hereford, Worcester or Gloucs area.

25759 SEEKING SIR GALAHAD Wonderful man wanted woncertul man warred nich, bright, SOH, that sort of
thing, for sheer enjoyment.
25760
VIVID, VIBRANT,
VIVACIOUS

VIVACIOUS
Bubbly, blue-eyed blonde,
52, told altractive, takes
pride in appearance,
Rubenesque figure, GSOH,
lovely nature, seeks sincere,
solvent gentleman, 50+.
Hertbordshire area. 12:5591
WAANTED, THYO KNICKITS WANTED: TWO KNIGHTS

WANTED: TWO KNIGHTS
Two female graduates, 30something, stim, attractive,
solvant, waiting to be rescued by two friendly, gallant
knights in strining armour.
25:75:1

EXCITING AUSSIE
Affectionate, professional
lady, easygoing, GSOH,
enjoys life, likes sports, wining/dining, seeks professionat, athletic English/
Caribbean male, mid-30s,
similar Intarests. NW
London. 25:748 London, 1275749 JUST FOR YOU

Attractive and warm lemale, 43, enjoys walks, theatre, wine and adventure, seeks interesting, optimistic male. If you think this is you, leave a message. West Midlands. 125691 SITUATION VACANT

STUATION VACANT Gorgeous, dynamic, sim, fun, intelligent writer/fecturer, late 40s, needs attractive, N/S, man, 40-50ish, who's strong, successful, intelli-gent, considerate, reliable and stylish, to fill the gap in her life. 27:5753 TOMMOROW MAY NEVER COME man recent Custe.
Continental, patite, skm, teminine, independent lemale,
50s, brown/brown, enjoys
everything with panache,
cooking, nature, sun, sand,
seeks honest male, emotional, cuddly, for triendship.
275739

Single Parent Good-looking female, 27, divorcing, seeks fun-loving male, for fun nights out, cosy nights in. London area. 255738

ATTRACTIVE BLONDE ATTHACTIVE BLOWLE
Worksholic female graduate
into the arts, walking, socialising and much more, seeks
silm, attractive, professional
man, 38-52, to share times
with, Bucks/London area.

Attractive, slim, fit, blonde graduate, early 40s, enjoys most things in life, lives life to the full, seeks good-look-ing male soul mate. Cardiff based. 22:5754

based. #5754
LONDON LADY
Attractive, slim, divorced female, 50, 8ves in west London, seeks male, 45-60, with similar interests. #25702
KIND MAN WANTED
Jaty 32, 557 slim, intelli-Lady, 32, 55, slim, intelli-gent, N/S, sensitive/caring, seeks intelligent, honest, seeks meangem, nonest, successful, unpretentious white gentleman, 35-40, 5*11*, N/S, who likes countryside, walks, pubs, theatre, eating in/out, for happiness, maybe relationship. 12*5761 VIVACIOUSI

VIVACIOUSI
Northern, professional lady, well educated, wicked SOH, requires tall, stim gent, 5'9"+, N/S, to share a retationship with, which will expand mind, body and soul. East Anglia. \$25763



UNATTACHED MALE Enjoys sports, fitness, travel, desires curvaceous, unpre-tentious female, 20-50, N/S. Edinburgh based. 27:5028 CREATIVE MIND Sporty male, 40s, into arts, theatre, painting, and wandering around the globe, red wine and laughter, seeks adventurous lemale, to share the least bradderstift. the less trodden path. 2:6024

Personal

COULD YOU GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE?

We are a young professional couple longing for a

child. The only way that we can have a baby is

through egg donation.

If you are a woman under 36 and would like to

belp us, please call nurse Jane on 0171 224 0707

quoting reference number 11046.

All reasonable expenses covered, Thank you.

OICE

THREE COLOURS

ing caring, thoughtful.

roung-looking student cour-cillor, aged 34, 6'3", easygo-

humorous, enjoys films. yoga, relaxing with thends. seeking independent, caring female, to enjoy life with.

Newcastle area, 1376048

ARE YOU OUT THERE?

Gentle doctor, aged 60. 5 6, south London, enjoys read-

ing, classical music, tradi-tional jazz, theatre, travet, DIY, people and vintage cars, seeks ternale graduate N/S. \$25975

create a

completely FREE to place your ad.

GENUINE MALE
Single white male, 44, protessional, considerate and
honest, lots to offer, many
interests: countryside, walking and dancing, seeks gentime lady, for freedship.

e lady, for mendship.

IF LIFE IS A JOURNEY...
...then I'm looking for a cocriver. Reading-based male,
too close to 40 for comfort,
seeks ternale, to share life's
buiste and horse. \$450.42

twists and turns. 226042

see

ách.

iaste.

HELPFUL

AMERICAN MALE

Professional, genuine, cute, serious and furiny male, 33, seeks wonderful female friend, for dinner, publing

and exploring, possibly for romance. 276035
BLOSSOMING FUTURE
Tall, slim gentleman, 56, N/S, likes the normal things in life, seeking slim lady, N/S, who requires romance, sincerity and kindness with wining

and kindness, with wining and dining, M25 area. \$26038

126038 TALL, DARK GRADUATE

Warm, caring male, wide interests arts, theatre, cine-

Imbresss arts, ineatre, cine-ma, pubs, clubs, walking, countryside, mountains, tor-eign travel, seeks tall, slim, professional, intelligent woman, 34-46, similar inter-ests, must have VGSOH. 13:5974

Intelligent, caring and attrac-tive male, 25, sensitive, with starrina, seeks sturning blonde, 18-35, for lun, triend-

If you are an outpoing, com-plex person, who enjoys new challenges and wants the best out of life, please caf. Must be positive. 12:5983

Kind, honest, trustworthy, funny, chivalrous, good-look

STUNNING!

ship and enjoying the

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TELEPHONE RING

Charming, funny, romantic, solvent, sportlaneous, solvent, sportlaneous, solvent, successful male, 34, with zest for life. Passions:

music, eating, shopping, seeking challenging ternale, 25-35, humour essential, tun guaranteed. Oxford/Berks/Bucks area preferably.

#15856 WILL YOU BE MINE?

possibly more. 175915 HANDSOME

Very jolly man, early 30s, 5°5", well-built, enjoys going out, eating out, films, seekin a buxom/cuddity fernale, large little, more, \$75015.

HANDSOME
AND GENUINE
City professional, 6', with life,
GSCH, varied interests,
seeks attractive, slim, caring
female, for friendship/

romance. You won't be dis-appointed. 255852 KNIGHT...

...with tarnished armour seeks damsel with Brasso. Mendip area. 225859

Mendio area. 25853
SINATRA LOVER
Witty, intelligent, dark, masculine, professional male,
aged 33, loves music, countyside, lims, sports, seeks
slim, attractive, cultured but
caring lady, without children,
who's independent, for a
lasting relationship. 255965
FATHER FIGURE
Wise old owl bachelor. 50.

Mise old owl bachelor, 50. gentle but lion-hearted knight, seeking a young lady, who needs an older father figure. Not rich, but all of me will benome and postect you.

ill honour and protect you

contact other service providers for details of thier charges.

London area. 276027 OXFORD Decent chap, 35, tall, own teeth and home, seeks you?

CAL: ****THE INDEPENDENT**

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29-YEAR-OLD MALE tive, enjoys travel, music, cinema, eating in/out, photography, sports, seeks attractive female, for friendship, possibly more Age-race unimportant. Bristol based but can travel \$25942

CALL ME Black male, 32, 5'11", medium build, black/brown. um build, to share interests

erroys keep-fit, cinema, long walks, eating out and friends, seeks lady, 25-35, simmed-

SIMPLE GUY tall, divorced. sporty, sophis-ticated. simple and spiritual, seeks female, with positive outlook on rife, for Intendship and him. London area.

125838 SOUL MATE SEARCH Attractive architect, 30s, 5'9', dark hair, green-blue eyes, simmish build, N/S, outgoing, spontaneous, rom ing, sportarieous totalistic loves sports, cycling, walks, the arts, exhibitions, fravel and socialisms, seeking a creative female, who's on a similar wavelength, for possi-ble senous relationship. Twickenham or nearthy area. ©TPI Group 1999

₹5833 LIFE COMMITMENT

Reserved, Inexperienced, mid-40s male, likes travel, socialising, seeks similar, sincere, lady, mid-30s to 50, for friendship, possibly more. East/North London or Easex area #5516 area. 🕿 5916

25705

ROMANTIC MALE... COCKNEY GUY

keeping fit, general sociali-ing, seeks thendly female,

255905 JAMES HERE Tall, attractive, gentle vege-tarian, late 50s. 5'10". N/S, seeks single, refined, unat-tached lemale, 40-65, for

Circle the ads that interest you and call 69665 \$43 142 and tollow the simple instructions to hear the adventuser's greeting message or to hear greetings from people who match your search criteria. You can leave messages for those who

interest you – it's simple, last and easyl BE SENSIBLE: We suggest that the first meeting always be held in a public place and that you do not reveal your full name, address or ne phone number until you are comfortable doing so.

> Young looking 35, seeks intellectual ternale, any nationality/race, for relationship. \$25893 ABy Queries? f you should have any questions about any aspects of our

SUCCESSFUL LAWYER

I'M WAITING tor someone to make two lives complete, yours and mine. Me, 41, 6; dark and handsome, N/S, warm, withy and available, very creative, into arts, theatre, cinema, music, You? Remember I'm waiting. 255931

music, You? Remember I'm waiting, 125931
LUST FOR LIFE
Male, 36, 5107, blond/blue, sincere, slightly mad, into anything that's fun, seeks wicked worman, 20-30, with good bone structure, to shower with affection.
Manchesier, 175839
HARDY STEMMY HAPPY BUNNY Warm-hearled, triendly, adventurous male, 45, 6'. N/S, likes sports, swimmir

warm, canng, single murns especially welcome, for friendship/relationship.

long-lerm, caring friendship and more 22:5851



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DAMAGE REPAIR REQUIRED RECUTRED
Following direct hit by bimbo.
Male, 42, 61", South Wales
based, seeks intelligent, single-minded female, 36-42,
for frendship and who
knows? 12:5894
FUTURE,
LOVE BOMANCE? LOVE ROMANCE?

Tall, attractive Englishman, early 30s, writer, is seeking a sensitive, educated and uncomplicated black female, for one-to-one relationship. TF 5643

WANTED:
HEDONISTIC WOMAN...
with horses, 25-40, to take
this tall, dark, professional
make, 36, to his first hunt,
trial and beyond and have
lots of fun while doing it.
Buckinghamshire. 125846
CREATIVE BLACK MALE...
35, 5'8', hedonistic, in
search of an understanding
tenale triend. 20-1, for lassing
triendship and relationship.
Must like gigs and hanging
out. Leicestar/Midlands area.
155845

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0800 216 351

Intelligent, caring male, 31, good looks and SOH, keen on travel, walking, fitness, music, cookery and stimula

ing company, seeking to meet genuine temale, 26-34, for fun, friendship and

OR DROWNING
Solvent, sociable, averagetooking male, 44, slim, fit,
seeks attractive, interesting

топтался. 1275515

CREATIVE

25845 CARRYING ON CAMPITING ON Male, 30, loves life, music, good lood, travel and the arts, seeks lady, for together ness and a whole lot more. 275695 Twickenham or nearby area.

Architect. 33, tall, blond, N/S, art lover, seeks professional Indian/Pakistani woman, with a sincere interest in the arts. 125898 FRIENDLY & RESERVED

CARPE DIEM Had a bad day, month or year. Considerate, proactive

guy, 50s, seeks female soul mate, under 50. South Wales based 225801

TALL ATTRACTIVE GRADUATE ATTRACTIVE GRADUATE Male, 51. warm and sensitive, with GSOH, varied interests, including the arts, travel, theatre, chrema, pubs, music, walks, seeking a tall, attractive, intelligent, thoughtful, professional woman, 34-46, with similar interests and a GSOH. 125831 OLDER LADY

Warm, caring, attractive, lalt, slim, independent, intelligent male, 30, seeks an attractive, older lady, for filtendship and affection. London.

SERENDIPITY
Tall, charming, light-haired, clever, silm single dad, young 48. stylish, romantic. attractive, solvent, professional, is seeking a compatible woman, 36-42, to enjoy life, laughter and companionship, Richtmond, Joanne - Jill Dando look-afike - call back with number. 27:5775
SIMPLY SPECIAL
Black professional male, 51, loves music, country life, music, is seeking a cultured lady, 40-55, any nationality, for friendship and more.
20:5777
CARRYING ON
Male, 50, loves life, music.

Male, 50, loves life, music,

good food, travel and the arts, seeks lady, for together ness and a whole lot more. 255695

...43, 5 11 . attractive, with a good physique, emotionally open, sincere, sensitive, likes art, home life, countryside, seaking a like-minded, attractive, slim female, for one-to-one. M62 corridor or elsewhere. \$25849

Cheeky, happy guy, 43, with okay looks, fair hair, stocky build, not lat, honest, reliable age/nationality open, for fun times, leading to a lasting relationship 12:5832 FRESH START! Good-looking, professional male, 31, 5'10", seeking

skinny/big build, bubbly female, any age or colour Very large women are also most welcome II you leave : message I promise I will get back to you. 255770 IS THIS YOU? Slim and attractive, indepen dent yet feminine, intelligent female, 28-39, N/S, medium

lemale, 28-39. N/S, medium height, sparkfing blue syes, lair/dark hair? If so, this tall, athletic, intelligent Brighton-based male, 39, is waiting for your call 25-5708 BRISTOL/SOUTH WEST Attractive, kind, intelligent and loyal male, 41, non-straker seakting a similar smoker, seeking a similar temale, for outings, conver-sation, triendship and love.

seeking

LIKE MINDS?

James, late 40s, but could be 10 years younger, sometime actor, now in the exhibitime actor, now in the exhibi-tion business, enloys theetre, travel, tennis and cycling, British heritage and architec-ture, seeking bright, attrac-tive, younger man, late 20s-30, similar interests. \$25037 WELSH MALE Unpretentious male, aged 28, 5'8", straight-acting, brown hair, blue eyes, into the cinema, travel, good

_---

the cinema, travel, good lood, fitness, countryside, seeking a chunky Welshman, aged 20-35. Oxford, Manchester or anywhere. OBLE SAVAGE

NOBLE SAVASIS Gay male, 40, 510°, brown hair/eyes, medium bulld, enjoys outdoors, arts, works out, seeks similar man, but not the same, for possible retationship. Yorks, 12:5880

1-2-1
Gay man, early 60s, tall, fit, active, graduate professional, non-scene, IVS, seeks younger man, 25-40, for tun, irlendship, holidays together, maybe more. Hampshire/ 211ywhere. 1275882

CREATIVE
& SPORTY
Male, 42, 5'8", selfemployed, likes arts, theatre,
pointing, travel, red wine,
laughter, seeks actventurous
female, to share the less
tended or other \$25748. anywhere. 175862
ITALIAN GUY
Romantic, 25, 57°, medium
build, sociable, with a
GSOH, postgraduale, professonal, enjoys a laugh, seeks
an intelligent, sincere, nonsoure male, 25°35;
Mediterranean or Northern
European-tooking, for a committed, one-to-one relationship. London. 175834
MATURE GAY MAN
Romantic male, likes art and temale, to share the less trodden paths. \$25748

DAY TRIPPER
Attractive, professional male, 37, tall, dark hatr, blue eyes, varied interests: cycling, hill-walking, holidays and music, seeks lun-loving female, to share magical, mystery tours. \$25890

Romantic male, likes art and music, seeks similar male friend, any age, for fun and friendship. Gloucs, 275633 FRIENDLY AND GENUINE Slim gay male, 32, 56", brown halrleyes, many inter-ests, theatre, cinema, eating

lively woman, to re-establish his future. Wits based. ALONE IN BELFAST out, current alfairs, seeks similar, for Iriendship, possi-ble relationship. North West ALONE IN BELFAST Shy, tall Belfast male, 19, brown hair, blue eyes, likes cinema, reading, quiet nights in or out, seeks friendly, caring temale, N/S, for friendship, maybe leading to more. 25703 area, 1275881 WARM AND INTELLIGENT WARIN AND INVESTMENT OF STATE OF STATE

SOUL MATE SOUL MATE
Tall, shm, attractive, genuine, honest, professional gentleman, lives in Somerset, enrjoys good tood and wine, travel, laughter, conversation, outdoor activities, seeks similar, classy, intelligent, slimmish lady, 40ish, for life, love and lots of laughter. 275593 Attractive, 38, 5'10", sim/muscular, professional, enjoys gym, travel, swim-ming, art, theatre, going out, romantic evenings in, seek-ing a guy, 25-40, for fun es and a lovino relation

ship. Devon area. 125840 SINCERE CHAP SINCEHE CHAP
Gay chap, 27, condial,
thoughtful, intelligent, quiet,
varied interests, non-scene,
seeks portly, professional
chap, 45-60, for romance, LOOKING FOR LOVE LOOKING FOR LOVE
Tall, well-built architect, 40.
own business, who tends to
work too hard, seeks intelligent, well-travelled, well-educated female, early 30s, who
wants to settle down and
start a family, 255996
CARE TO INDULGE

Extractionator, 20, 5, 10* life together. Ldn/Country. 275637 ZOO DIRECTOR

Ex-backpacker, 29, 5 10", well-built, radical, shy, sensitive, honest, enjoys pub nights, swimming, reading, social realism films, good conversation, seeks mixed lar interests, aged 27-34. 12:5773

WARM AND KIND London-based male, aged 35, into cinema, theatre, Irish culture, seeks similar temale. 25752 VERY ATTRACTIVE Male, 45, 5'8", creative, GSOH, seeks slim, intelligent, attractive ternale, close friendship. West Yorkshire 175583

LATERAL-THUNKING GRADUATE
In his 40s, Cambridgeshire
based, seeking an intelligent,
attractive, affectionate and spontaneous girl, who has the long-term in mind. 125592 LIFE'S WHAT

YOU MAKE IT Handsome, witty male, 32, into cinema, theatre and the arts, seeks an attractive, challenging, sporty woman, 22-32, for shared life experi

ence. 255762 SHARE SUNSHINE AND RAIN SUNSHINE AND RAIN
Male, aged 50, stocky build,
decent-looking, brown
hair/eyes, likes animals,
wildlife, seeks genuine, honest lady, up to 52, slim/medium build. 22:5701
PROFESSIONAL
GENTLEMAN
Gent, 44, single, no bes,
seeks attractive ternale, 3550, to enjoy life, theatre, eating out and general socialising, in the South West area.
22:5699

you, zest for life. How bout SWEET OREAMS SWEET OREAMS
Attractive and assertive
male, 35, seeking an intelligent, submissive ternale, 1835, for tun, friendship and
true romance \$25912

Chat Lines

Male, 43, warm and fun-lov-ing, absent-minded, works-holic, needs organising by a strong, sensitive, possibly tall, hopefully handsome and inhilinant male and 19 EA intelligent male, aged 18-50.



emoy being with further-edu-cated, Intelligent, attractive, tall, sentimental politics mas-ter student, aged 24, 6'4". **27**5858 FUN, FRIENDSHIP, PARADISE Genuine, bisexual male Genuine, bisexual male, early 30s, 59°, strong build, very good-looking, dark brown hair, brown eyes, enjoys watching the news, good movies, earing out, is seeking couples or singles, any size, very skinny or very plump, for good lan times.

ALPHA BETA CURI CULUM Aural, burns and hips, Chekhov, dares, first-takes, girlishness, humour, ideas, joint, kindness, love, lust and literature, sweet music, Never-Never Land, open minds, passion, quiet, ive siren respect, submis truth, underground, volup tuous, want, xtraordinary,

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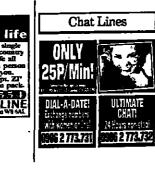
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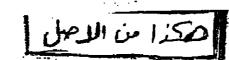






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MODERN MANNERS: YOUR CUT-OUT-AND-KEEP GUIDE TO SURVIVING THE MINEFIELD

POPPY FOLLY

YOUR STARS: IT COULD HAPPEN

the same time.

pronouncing Colin.

minded schoolboys.



Dear Serena, Do you have any advice for me at this solema time? William, Washington DC

Nothing much, William dear, except for one of my dear, wise old granny's adages. Playfully wagging her finger. she used to say, "Serena, dear, it always pays to know how to pronounce a country before you bomb it."

Dear Serena, As usual, my husband insists on taking us all down to see his family in Cardiff over the weekend, so what with the motorways, we will be spending at least 12 hours locked up. in the car with a nine-year-old and an eight-year-old. Have you any games we might play to pass the time? Mary, London

Of course, I know how difficult it is to throw sticks for the young in confined spaces, having recently spent a couple of hours on the train with a group of programme-developers when all the

loos were locked. Fortunately, there are plenty of games to hand; now that all suburban pubs have been turned into Harvesters, which afford no runs at all for pub cricket, the main alternative is to play Pampas!, a game that involves every individual shouting out the word and pointing when they pass a patch of Pampas grass. A responsible adult possibly yourself - should keep score. Combined with Dish!, this can produce hours of fun. Alternatives include Gallagher, where people compete to come up with the most imaginative interpretation of words that consist of a lead letter and end letter linked by a row of asterisks (this is known in some families as Tabloid). Or you could try Rock Star, Politician or Businessman, a more sophisticated version of Animal, Vegetable or Mineral; you'll be surprised by how much the little dears will have already picked up about current affairs. Try also "Brightman", in which contestants take it in turns to sing Lloyd Webber songs in the manner of a scalded cat. "Draughts" involves opening the window at high speed and

seeing how many bits of paper fly out; in bank holiday traffic you will have little opportunity to play this more than once or twice for five minutes at a time. Or play Monopoly, in which finsert name of Global come up with the most extreme libel. If all else on a given signal, to say

contestants take it in turns to start with the line "I hate corporation, eg Microsoft, or business figure, eg Bill Gates] because..." and compete to fails, prime your husband, "Darling, what did you do with those Boyzone Easter eggs?" to which you can reply "They're somewhere in the luggage in the boot". A riotous game of Scrabble should quickly break out.

Dear Serena, Ticket sales to my stately home have plummeted this year. Can you suggest any methods by which I could boost them?

Charlie, Northants

Yes. Try giving the money to charity this time.

Dear Serena can't decide: should I have my belly-button pierced or not? Tara, Lymington

> Not, Tara. The habit's already old-hat enough to have made it into fast-food advertising; and think how embarrassed you'll be this time next year to look like an All Saint.

> > Dear Serena, On the subject of stag nights, I would dearly

Several Americans were born this week: Kitty

heterosexual member of the royal family, and Gerald

Ford's wife Betty, who couldn't walk and drink rum at

Several other pointless foreigners feature: Helmut

Kohl, who reunited Germany (it really didn't need it).

However, there is also Anthony Fokker, the Dutch-

We can close with one-shot David Frost and Ravi

Shankar - both the source of a single addition to our

Harold Edgerton, who invented the strobe (but

born American aeroplane manufacturer whose

nomenclature has delighted generations of dirty-

cultural heritage. Frost was called "the Bubonic

Australian rhyming slang for a sitar player.

Plagiarist" by Jonathan Miller, and Ravi Shankar is

totally exhausted by finding a new way of

why?), and Colin Powell, whose inventiveness was

Kelley, who failed to sleep with the only properly

love to have one, but my fiancée, a lecturer in gender politics, is strenuously objecting to the idea. What do you suggest?

Dan, Islington

Your fiancée's job is interfering with her home life, something to which women have objected loudly about men for generations. While I agree that large groups of baying men are at best a nuisance and at worst threatening to women, it is also better that men get to exercise the lycanthropic side of their personalities under controlled circumstances in places designed to cope with them, than that the same traits come bursting out unexpectedly at home. Tell your fiancee that you believe in honesty in relationships, and that you would rather have a stag night with her knowledge than conduct it in secret. She may not like it, but if she expects to live life in liberty, she should be prepared to offer liberty to her partner. And besides, I suspect that your fiancée may not be as rigid in her

values as you think; marriage being

traditionally regarded by the gender lobbies as a means of subordination of women (which is also why the Iron Johns are so fervently in favour of it), she's already slipped quite drastically by opting for the old rings-and-flowers option in the first place.

Dear Serena. Any quick-fire tests to see if I'm fit to handle the lawnmower after an afternoon down the pub? Bruce, Milton Keynes

If you can say "Seven slit sheets slit by slippery Sam the professional sheetslitter" seven times in rapid succession, you're probably OK. A quicker version is "Asif's office", though no one has been known to do this one more than four times without hesitation, however sober.

Knotty problems with the world today? Write to Dear Serena, The Independent, 18th Floor, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, where they will be dealt with with the customary sympathy.



ARIES

IT'S NOT fair that your astrology should be underperforming during your birth sign. But the engine isn't running smoothly at all. Misfiring cylinders are causing a nuisance - noise and pollution don't make you popular. You think you're doing one thing but you're actually up to something very different, whether or not you want it to be so. Your lovers may be turning into friends but only because you won't blow their coals. You can easily keep passion alive.



TAURUS

YOUR EROTIC ambitions are overtaken by a new ability to conjure up the demons - nudity, desire, perverse experimentation - in the most respectable people. You approach your victims from an unexpected angle which allows you to conquer their most impregnable positions (their guns are all facing the wrong way). Your intuitions are accurate and your seductive powers unprecedented. If only you had practice you'd know where to put your hands.



Fr. 21 14

MERCURY CELEBRATES its return to normality by chumming up to Jupiter twice, and going sextile with Venus. Your week will be a satisfying mix of sweet music, celestial high-mindedness and filthy behaviour. It's a Rimbaud thing, a lust for experience, a passion to transcend your normal boundaries (if in any way your boundaries can be said to be normal) and turn the trash of life into art. Or at least into money. Silly poetic abilities will surface (suppress them).



CANCER

THE CRUELLEST month is living up to its reputation with desire stirring and the pain of new shoots pushing through. You can train these things after they've grown, but you can only stop them growing altogether by yet more pain (bleach, weedkiller, poison). Remember, the new shoots are coming off old rootstock. You think you need a holiday, but you have to take yourself with you so what's the point? Desire and pain are a double helix, but essential to life.



uddha was born this week. In this secular

age he is mostly known for being The One

Who Makes Brando Look Not-Fat. And

Brando's last role (in The Island of Dr

this is harder than it sounds, for in

There is a certain amount of poetry in this sign, but none of it very useful, now that coupling doesn't

require rhyming couplets. Look, we have Algernon

writers ("Smack me, spank me, oolooloo!/Whip my

Swinburne, that most English of Pre-Raphaelite

big bare bottom with your savage bamboo!"), we

have William Wordsworth ("And on the path there

was a puddle six foot wide by three feet long and up

And finally, Arian Richard II, who uttered that

upon the ground and tell sad stories of the death of

kings/ Or then again, let's get burgers, I'll have mine

plangent anachronism: "For God's sake let us sit

Moreau) he played the island.

to four inches deep.")

without those awful gherkins."

NORMALLY YOU are as predictable as a game of tick-tack-toe, but out of nowhere comes an ability to astonish (you are as surprised as anyone). Your mind crackles with ideas - this may adversely affect your hair and will certainly annoy your spouse. The money-making ideas are particularly irritating. But you'll be better in bed than usual and this may cause suspicion. An opportunity for making more money than you deserve is clearly a mistake, no wonder you jump at it.



Virgo

YOUR NATURAL sense of superiority will be enlivened in the nicest possible way. Even when you nag, your voice will be as music to your victims' ears. Teachers and politicians will find unimaginable popularity, and recognition will be welcome (except in massage parlours). Travel is a good idea, especially for those seeking everhigher education. If you establish a philosophical position which includes the bedposts you will bring pleasure and happiness to your partner.

WE USED to be visited by an

amiable fellow called George.

malapropistically on entering

thump the table and intone: "I

wrong!" Being a problem-solver and logical thinker, I would fall

contradiction and his inability to

contradictory illogic lies at the

heart of Nato's Kosovan cock-up.

Its repeated and avowed aim has

been to protect the Albanian

ethnic cleansing. But bombing,

as predicted, has produced the

opposite. Support for Milosevic

accelerated, atrocities worsened

Nato, like a GP with no idea what

It is, of course, un-PC to say

this. Alex Salmond was savaged

by Clare Short for saying what

all people of sense spotted from

the outset. He must be the toast

of Belgrade, sniped Robin Cook.

Nato Supreme Commander

No, Robin. If there's a toast of

Belgrade, it is Nato's naïvety.

General Wesley Clark himself

asserts that you can't stop

and the huge efflux of refugees

risks destabilising the region.

is wrong with the patient,

medicine.

prescribes more of the same

has soared among moderate

Serbs. Ethnic cleansing has

Kosovars by reducing Milosevic's ability to pursue

stand by what I say, right or

about laughing at this self-

see how ludicrous it was. But the same sort of self-

political diatribe, he would

our flat. Later, in the course of a

"Here I am in the Inner



SO YOUR slapper tendency may be getting out of hand again, with Uranus giving you ideas (you don't need ideas, you need follow-through). You persistently confuse friendship with love, and this causes you to jump the tracks and go off the rails. Your social instincts are enflamed, you'll want to sleep with everyone, and so sweetly does Mercury interface with Venus that your wishes have every chance of being fulfilled. Are you really sure this is what you want?



SCORPIO

THERE'S A drag-anchor that keeps pulling you back; strain as you will you cannot make the progress that needs to be made. Others overtake you, or take your air. But only very few will get away completely, your disability will not last forever, and when you manage to cut free you will move with a frightening speed. In the meantime, you need excitement, you need exercise. Fire a fool. Make someone get naked. Write a sonnet. Dream on.



SAGITTARIUS

YOUR MIND broadens so much that you might not see the point of things. However, this will not stop you discoursing freely. Your verbal abilities will be so strong that those close to you will long to stop your mouth, and this may lead to some unusual encounters with very hungry partners. After a minor slump in the middle of the week, the cycle will start again, but this time with added rinse. Your unfortunate body may just become the object of comedy.



CAPRICORN

HONESTLY, I'M doing my best but there's no ignoring facts. Your ruling planet is square with Neptune and your pit opens up. All manner of darkness, desire and death wish is released into the world and takes you in its coils. This isn't unfamiliar or unpleasant, funnily enough - at least you feel you're on your own ground. Drugs may present a danger (you're well stoked up already). Beware dabbling in psychic exercises: your astral body is already bulimic.



AQUARIUS

YOU FEEL you're getting away with murder, slaughter even, and with these planets, it's no wonder. Your ruler Uranus is agitating up against Venus, and then goes sextile with the Sun. Not only do you have the frotteur's ability to meet new people you have an almost fascist ability to make them do what you want. You'll be needing that, because the ideas you now want to put into practice with your partner are illegal in many states of America.



PISCES

NOW YOUR unconscious turns in its sleep and releases a flock of black thoughts. You're tempted to succumb to the morbid fears that wake you up before dawn. Your ruling planet is square with Saturn and your susceptibility to mental illness is monstrously enhanced. Keep a grip on your bedpost. Your carers suggest you're suffering from an inferiority complex they don't see that it's not a neurotic condition but a sober appraisal of the facts).

CLASSIC CARTOONS

MARTIN PLIMMER ON CAPTAIN BRUCE BAIRNSFATHER



Modern Topography: 'Well, you see, here's the church and there's the post-office'

War bombs, Captain Bruce Bairnsfather possessed hand and resolve steady enough to send cartoons home to Bystander magazine.

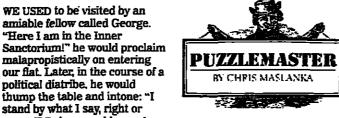
These "Fragments from France" are darkly ironic, but not bitter. Bairnsfather drew bombs like fat, levitating lipsticks, pausing in midair just long enough for their victims to utter a punch-line, an act of grace not normally associated with munitions. There was nothing else cosmetic about them. Unlike

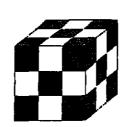
71 293 231

WHILE ENDURING First World today's missiles, designed to take out black spots, leaving beauty to flourish, they blasted everything.

Bairnsfather was criticised in Parliament for depicting British soldiers as grumpy, sad and cynical, but his work was eventually credited as a morale-booster.

"The war has become the normal business of every man's life" wrote a Bystander editor, introducing a 1916 Bairnsfather collection. "He has little to laugh at. But still he laughs."





paramilitary operations from the air. So how does this square with protecting the Albanian Kosovars? Illogical Captain, I mean General Dottier still is the polarised rhetoric. You are for us or against us. Not so. Can't I be for you but against your policy? Bombing is the only alternative to doing nothing, says Blair. That's only because Clinton rules out ground troops in a just cause, presumably thanks to all those bad American experiences of intervention in unjust causes. Blame Milosevic, not Nato, says the Government. As if Milosevic being the root of this evil frees

The upshot of all this binary illogic, this "black or white" thinking, this either/orishness is a humanitarian disaster.

choosing a rational policy.

Nato from the responsibility of

Baroness Warnock remarked that no civilised government could have foreseen the scale of the refugee crisis. Short on plans, short on imagination.

Even dottier is Short on why preparation for the refugees lagged so far behind preparations for bombing. To prepare in advance, she explained, would have been complicity. As a logical thinker, you could fall about laughing at the ludicrousness of all this selfcontradiction if its consequences weren't so tragic. Oh, and Happy Easter.

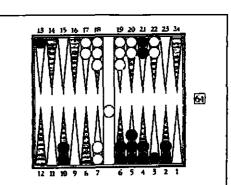
Answer to last week's puzzle Colour the cubelets alternately black and white as shown. There are 14 black and 13 white. So you must start and end at a corner or face centre.

POINTS TO PONDER 1.A fly alights at one corner of a sugar cube measuring 1cm X 1cm X 1cm and proceeds to walk, confining herself to the edges. How far can she walk without retracing any segment of her path? Prove it! 2. A couple have four children. If boys and girls are equally probable, are there more likely to be three girls and a boy. or two girls and two boys? 3. Rearrange the letters of TYPE A PHRASE to make an apposite message.

Comments to: indyw puzzlemaster.co.uk

BACKGAMMON

CHRIS BRAY



I RECENTLY had this position at the Double Fives. After my opponents had fanned (parlance for failing to enter from the bar), I doubled, All three opponents, fearing the loss of a gammon, passed, and we went on to the next game.

Let's analyse the position. There are three main variants: I have 20 rolls that make my three-point and, if white fans again, I have definitely lost my market as white will pass. If I make the three-point and white enters, what then? I still have to escape two men from behind white's four-point prime and at the same time contain the white man on my one-point. I'm still the

favourite to win the game but

not a big favourite.

● I have 16 rolls that fail to make my three-point. If that happens I could be in big trouble very quickly, especially if white hits my blot. In all variations I must still

extract those back from white's home board. One mistimed set of double threes or fours and I could self-destruct.

All in all there are not enough threats and too much could quickly go wrong to justify doubling this position. Should I have waited to make my threepoint before doubling?

Absolutely not! I thought all three opponents would drop and I was right. Knowing your opponents is a vital element in backgammon, perhaps more important than calculating percentages.

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ELEVISION & RADIO EASTER SUNDAY

BBC1

7.50 Match of the Day (8311549). 9.05 News: Weather (3458891) 9:10 Football Millionaires (9212278). 10.00 A Joyful Eastertide (29370029). 11.40 CountryFile (9484617), 12.10 News (9527100). 12.15 Streets Apart (3297549). 1.00 EastEnders Omnibus (94314278).

2.40 Sunday Grandstand. Sue Barker introduces live coverage of the Davis Cup tennis and highlights of the second semi-final. Wasps vs Gloucester, in rugby union's Tetley Bitter Cup. Tennis: Great Britain vs USA, the singles matches conclude today. Commentary by John Barrett, Mark Cox, Chris Bailey, Peter Fleming and David Mercer. Rugby union: brief highlights of Wasps vs Gloucester from Loftus Boad, Commentary by Nigel Starmer-Smith (S) (56490617).

7.25 Songs of Praise. John Nettles, and Kevin Whately join Pam Rhodes and the Coventry Chorale in telling the Easter story (S) (T) (375711).

8.00 CHOICE Tiger: the Wildlife Special. Documentary following a tigress and her three cubs as they struggle to survive in Kanha National Park in India. See Nature Programme of the Day, below (S) (T) (817926).

8.50 News; Weather (T) (467988).

9.05 CHOICE Forrest Gump (Robert Zemeckis 1994 US). Tom Hanks' simple man experiences three decades of American history. See Film of the Day, below (S) (T) (60355029)

11.20 Harbour Lights (S) (T) (356146). 12.05 The Sky at Night (5553376).

12.25 The River Rat (Tom Rickman 1984 US), Torrimy Lee Jones returns after serving 13 years in jail for a murder he didn't commit, and bonds with his daughter (Then Weather) (S) (1641037). To 2am.

BBC2

7.55 Postman Pat (8523810). 8.20 Follow that Bunny (4678433). 8.45 Monster Easter (605549), 9.15 Inch-High Private Eve (S) (7318487). 9.40 No Sweat (8968433), 10.05 Firm: Balanced Particle Freeway (39148742). 11.40 The Man Who Jumped to Earth (2091013). 12-20 Top Gear Take 2 (S) (9512278). 12.30 Golf - the Masters (2270617), 1.25 Sunday Grandstand (S) (93875636). 1.30 Rugby Union (90669). 2.00 Davis Cup Tennis (7198384), 2.40 Film: Mustang Country (1460346), 3.55 Seven Canticles of St Francis (7407013), 4.50 Animal Zone (3530742), 5.00 Watch Out Spring (6749079).

5.35 The Natural World. The second of two documentary films looking at the wildlife of Iran (S) (T) (802013).

6.25 In the Footsteps of Bruce Chatwin. In the concluding part of two programmes marking the 10th anniversary of writer Bruce Chatwin's death, his biographer, Nicholas peare, continues his journey through Chatwin's life (S) (146094).

7.25 Steptoe and Son. Harold plans a skiing holiday (R) (892623).

8.00 Lindbergh. Stacy Keach narrates this documentary about the controversial life of pre-war aviation legend Charles Lindbergh - a national hero, but also a right-wing bigot who flirted with Nazism (S) (8617).

9.00 Red Dwarf VII. Pets the Sparrow is turned into a tyrannosaurus rex (S) rn (3297).

9.30 If I Ruled the World. Guests are Andy Hamilton and John Sergeant (R) (S) (T) (85704).

10.00 FILM JFK (Oliver Stone 1991 US). Ofiver Stone's powerful and controversial recreation of the 1963 Kennedy assassination in Dallas and its aftermath, focusing on the investigations of New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison (played by Kevin Costner). It's that multiple gunman theory again, with Gary Oldman as Lee Harvey Oswald, Sissy Spacek and Joe Pescl (853617).

1.00 Outer Limits (R) (3018292).

2.00 BBC Learning Zone: Exam Revision: GCSE Bitesize Revision: Science 2 - Biology (T) (64872). 4.00 Languages: España Viva 9 & 10 (22018). To 5am.

ITV LWT

6.00 GMTV (84425452). 7.50 Diagit (83601810). 9.25 Hey Amold! (7238297). 9.50 Power Rangers in Space (8975723). 10.20 Oggy and the Cockroaches (7524100). 10.30 Easter Glory (65407). 11.30 The Rock That Doesn't Roll (8988). 12.00 Who is This Jesus? (67810). 12.30 Crosstalk (92094). 1.00 News; Weather (38453655). 1.10 Voyage to Antarctica (2506181). 2.00 Generations (35201520). 2.10 Fashion Tribute: Vivienne Westwood (51838452). 2.35 Murder, She Wrote (S) (7837013), 3.30 Film: Journey to the Centre of the Earth (S) (169592).

5.20 Big Screen (T) (2539891).

5.50 London Weekend Tonight (T) (689487).

6.15 ITY News; Weather (T) (816365).

6.30 Michael Barrymore's My Kind of Music. Michael Barrymore hosts the entertainment show in which competitors get the chance to perform - as well as show off their musical knowledge (S) (T) (92907).

7.30 Coronation Street. Leanne makes a decision about the baby (S) (T) (891).

8.00 Nancherrow. 1/2. First of a fuscious two-part adaptation of Rosamunde Pilcher's sequel to Coming Home, and with a stellar cast that includes Joanna Lumley, Patrick Macnee, Susan Hampshire and Robert Hardy. The story opens in the hungry postwar years, when the eponymous Cornish seat is inherited by the family's headstrong daughter. Now read on... (S) (T) (2487)

10.00 South Bank Show Special. Legendary country singer Dolly Parton goes back to her childhood home in Tennessee, where she tells Melvyn Bragg about her upbringing, and her subsequent career (S) (T) (8094).

11.00 ITV News; Weather (T) (858810).

11.15 FILM Straight Talk (Barnet Kellman 1992 US). Enjoyable romantic comedy starring Dolly Parton and James Woods (264723).

12.55 Hell Hath No Fury (Thomas J Wright 1990 US). Thriller starring Barbara Eden and Loretta Swit (S) (T) (711292). To 2.40am.

Channel 4

6.30 The Clangers (9920384). **6.40** Bagpuss (7535162). **7.00** Sesame Street (R1549), 7.30 Bug Alert! (8293013). 7.55 Insektors (8534926). 8.15 Saved by the Bell - the New Class (4673988). 8.40 City Guys (9407655). 9.10 Catdog (8648029). 9.45 Planet Pop (7707487). 10.00 The Waltons (99568). 11.00 Hollyoaks (1749568), 12.10 Dawson's Creek (1350433). 1.10 Doors to Manual (2578029). 1.45 Football Italia (9708907). 2.55 The Magical Making of Merlin (6570758). 3.20 Hampton Court Palace (6135839).

4.30 Cm Moonlight Bay (Roy Del Ruth 1951 US). Musical comedy starring Doris Day and Gordon MacRae (T) (84849365).

640 CHOICE Mertin. New, two-part drama starring Sam Neill, Isabella Rossellini, Miranda Richardson and Helena Bonham Carter. See Drame of the Day, below (T) (91049162).

8.00 Viking Saga. Continuing this documentary about the poor, misunderstood Vikings (not headbashers at all, but cultured and civilised) examining evidence that the modern state of Russia was, in fact, founded by a Viking tribe (T) (6013).

9.00 Shanghai Vice. In the final part of Phil Agland's stunning series about the Shanghal police, the economy takes a down turn and a wealthy businessman's son is kidnapped (S) (T) (3549).

10.00 Reservoir Dogs (Quentin Tarantino 1991 US). Tarantino's fresh and influential debut is a neatly constructed tale of six criminals meeting after a heist goes horribly wrong. With Harvey Keitel, Tim Roth and Michael Madsen (T) (764013).

11.55 The 11 O'Clock Show (611471).

12.40 Film City on Fire (Ringo Lam 1987 HK), Lam's deft and violent Hong Kong crime thriller which inspired Reservoir Dogs. With Chow Yun-Fat (S) (552476).

2.40 Payroll (Sidney Hayers 1962 US). And another crime drama (107037), To 4.30am.

Channel 5

7.00 Dappledown Farm (2059029). 7.30 Mikshakel (2847487). 7.35 Wirnzie's House (4198100). 8.00 From Jesus to Cirrist (2022623) 9.00 Stickin' Around (8991384). 9.30 Mikbar (6683443). 10.00 Mirror, Mirror (4263452). 11.00 USA High (1100433). 11.30 Singled Out (1101162), 12.00 My Story (48597365). 12.25 Inside Out Special (48590452). 12.55 Anything's Possible (68185029). 1.10 5 News (23262915). 1.20 Frostrup on Sunday (31104094). 1.50 Movie Chart Show (36084549). 2.20 Exclusive (6726297). 3.10 Family Affairs Omnibus (82764641). 5.25 5 News and Sport (59398100).

5.30 Elephant Kingdom (6276384).

6.00 Legends: Harrison Ford. Documentary charting the career of the reclusive Hollywood film star. Martin Sheen, Anne Heche and the director Philip Noyce are happy to help out, while Ford can be seen later this evening in Blade Runner (6007907).

7.30 5 News and Sport (S) (T) (6253433).

8.00 Hercules and the Lost Kingdom (Kirk Baltz 1994 US). Hercules, the mortal son of Zeus, journeys to a distant land that is filled with danger (T) (55095100). . .

9.40 Blade Runner - the Director's Cut (Ridley Scott 1992 US). Poor previews prompted studio execs to "revise" Scott's thoughtful, seminal sci-fi movie, which has now, been restored to its original form. Harrison Ford plays an LA cop in 2019, sent to kill a group of renegade replicants - genetically engineered slaves - led by Rutger Hailer. The resulting carnage forces all those involved to question their humanity (34276075).

11.50 The Comedy Network (6116181). 12.20 Major League Baseball Live (S) (48593563). 4.40 You Again? (94651360). 5.05 Move On Up 152221489). **5.30** Dragon's Tale (6063563). To 6am.

ITV/Regions

Anglia
As LWT except: 12.30 Anglia
News Sunday Supplement (\$2094).
2.00 Take It On (\$948). 2.30 Hope
and Gioris (\$25). 3.00 Bugs Burny
— All-American Hero (2723). 3.30
Murder, She Wrote (#82704). 4.25
Film: Spies Like Us (17503723).
6.05 Anglia News (\$09029). 12.55
Film: Hell Hath No Fury (\$4582).
2.55 Jany Springer (4662230). Film: Heil Hath No Fury (341582).
2.35 Jerry Springer (4662230).
3.20 Cub@Vision (1468018). 4.05
Cybernet (23038719). 4.30
Soundtrax (83141327). 4.45 ITV
Nghtscreen (25357308). 5.00
Coronation Street (12211).

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Central Central
As LWT except: 12.30 Lifeline
(76163655), 12.35 Newsweek
(3604891), 12.55 Central News
(1888568), 2.00 World of Wonder
(8836200), 2.15 Murder, She Wrote
(8023094), 3.10 Film: The Cains
Muttery (77098810), 5.25 Animal
SOS (2538162), 5.55 Lifeline
(171704), 6.00 Central News
(81810), 4.10 Jobfinder (7330940).

(81810). 4.30 Jobinton (733494).

HTV Wales
As LWT except: 12.00 Who is
This Jesus? (5586641). 12.25
Waterfront (3887618). 12.55 HTV
News mi885689. 2.00 Murder, She
Wrote (1365704). 2.50 Film: The
Trouble with Harry (69502538).

4.40 The Front How (1831320).

5.40 Soccer Sunday (232013). 6.10
HTV News and Weather (432452).

12.55 - 5.00 As Anolis. 12.55 - 5.00 As Anglia. HTV West As HTV Wales except: 12.25 Life and Soul (3887618). 2.00 Hope

Life and South (9949). 2.30 Hope and Gloria (9949). 2.30 Fast Cars (8998). 3.30 Film: Carry On Jack (491487). 5.40 Getaways (5794592). 5.40 West Match Plus (232013).

Meridian Meridian
As LWT except: 12-30 7 Days
(3605520), 12-50 Meridian News
(76149075), 2-00 Getaways (9948),
2-30 Murder, She Wrots (7838742),
3-35 Cartoon (5031297), 3-30 Firm:
That Darn Catl (17865094), 5-45
Meridian Tonight (583988), 12-55
5-00 As Anglia, 5-00 Freescreen
(12211).

Westcountry
As LWT except: 10.20
Westcountry Update (3676100).
10.50 Westcountry Fayre
(8809433). 11.00 Easter Glory (8909433). **11.00** Easter Glory (3487). **12.30** Westcountry Weekend Match: (92094). **2.00** Power Game (9948). **2.30** Murder, She Wrote (7838742). **3.25** Cartoons (605062). **3.40** Film: The Caine Mutiny (59869100). **6.00** Westcountry Goals Extra (443568). **6.05** Westcountry News (909029). **12.55** Film: Hell Hath No Fury (34582). **2.35** The Jerry Springer 12.35 Firm: Hell Hall No Fully (34/582), 2.35 The Jerry Springer Show (4662230), 3.20 Cub@Vision (1468018), 4.05 Cybernet (23038719), 4.30 - 5.00 As Anglia. Yorkshire

TOPKSINIFE
As LWT except: 12-30 A Brush
with Ashley (92094). 2.00 Calendar
News and Weather (89338100).
2.05 Generations (89361471). 2.20
Fashlon Tribute: Vivienne Westwood
(51625988). 2.50 Film: Carry On
Abroad (50231926). 4.30 Abroad (50231825). 4.30 Caronation Street (88723). 5.30 Calendar News (104891). 5.45 Goals on Sunday (583989). 12.55 Cybernet (2475056). 1.25 Film: Raja Ki Aayegi Baaraat (65847209). 4.25 Jobfinder (9154563).

Tyne Tees
As Yorkshire except: 12.30
Newsweek (\$2094): 2.00 North
East News (\$9338100). 5.30 North
East News and Sport (104891). 5.45 Café Sport (5839)

S4C As Channel 4 except: 12.00 Gogs (74211297), 12:10 Rownd a Rownd: Omnibws (8991605). 12:40 Fiei (13009297), 12:55 Go 12.40 Fiel (13009/297). 12.55 Gol (57834704). 1.40 Talkabout Weish (98879891). 2.00 Flermio (34128988). 2.35 Brookside (63197704). 4.00 Escape to River Cottage (99523907). 4.30 Pam Fl Druw? (99522891). 5.00 Newyddion (41473907). 5.05 Oedfa'r Pasg (78499617). 5.35 Pobol y Cwm (73568487). **7.30** Botwm 4 (99523520). **8.00** Dechrau Canu Dechrau Canmol (41900988), 8,30 Licyris Olsorts (89112433), 9,05 Tair Criwaer (54122549), 10,05 Newyddion (79796384), **10,20** Merin (96479568), **12,20** Blography - King Arthur (86194766), **12,55** Shanghal Vice (86106501), 1.55 Close.

7.00 Rescue 911 (7577988) 7.30 Beyond Belief (1061988) 8.00 Ally McBeal (1174153) 9.00 Jerry Springer Double Bill (72101588) 10.45 Entertainment Now!

(7759487). **11.00** Sex Life (3033346). **12.00** Close.

9.00 The Hill* (1965) (39816346). 11.30 The Big House* (1930) (40295549). 1.15 Never So Few (1959) (29008018). 3.30 Village of the Damned* (1960) (3078292). 5.00 Close.

Comedy Channel
7.00 Cueless (1278). 7.30
Grace under Fire (4617).
8.00 Med about You

Paramount

TNT

NATURE PROGRAMME AND STATEMENT OF THE DAY

TIGER - THE WILDLIFE SPECIAL (8pm BBC 1, right) The first of three outstanding films in a short season about the tiger. The programmes aren't just concerned with capturing the creatures themselves, but also about putting their dwindling numbers in the context of their environment - and that of trappers and the millions of other dirt-poor humans who could find a use for their forest habitat.



DRAMA OF THE DAY

MERLIN (6.10pm C4, right) Sumptuous drama (showing in two parts, concluding tomorrow) based on the various legends about the wizard of the Dark Ages. Sam Neill plays the grown-up Merlin, and he's joined by Isabella Rossellini, Miranda Richardson, Helena Bonham Carter, Rutger Hauer and Sir John Gielgud, who utters two lines before being beheaded. The tea-time slot is about right.



Film of THE DAY

FORREST GUMP (9.05pm BBC1, right) Capraesque without that director's ambiguity, this is a film for everyone - and it sure cleaned up at the box office (and at the Oscars). Tom Hanks's warm-hearted simpleton makes his way through three decades of America's recent history, with clever. Zelig-like inserts placing him with JFK, Neil Armstrong and so on. The message is vague. Ignorance is bliss?



SATELLITE & CABLE

Radio 1 (976-99.8MHz FM) 6.30 Kevin Greening. 10.00 Mark Gooder's Radio 1 Request Show 1.00 Jamie Theakston. 3.00 Top of the Pops. 4.00 The Official UK Top 40. 7.00 Radio 1's Dance Anthems with Dave Pearce 10.00 Trevor Nelson 12.00 Radio 2

Clive Warren. 5.00 -9.00 Kevin Greening. (88-90.2MHz FM) 7.00 Don Maclean. 9.05 Steve Wright's Sunday Love Songs, 11.00 Parkinson's Sunday Parkinson's Sunday Supplement 1.00 Desmond Carrington 3.00 Russell Davies 4.00 Fred Astaire: Step by Step. 4.30 Sing Something Simple. 5.00 Parn Ayres 7.00 Hugh Scully. 8.00 Easter Glory. 9.00 Alan Keith. 10.00 Malcolm Laycock. 11.00 The David Jacobs Collection. 12.00 Mo Dutta, 3.00 - 4.00 Alex Lester.

Radio 3 (90.2-92.4MHz FM) 6.00 On Air. 9.00 Brian Kay's Sunday Morning. 11.00 Artist of the Week Encore. **12.15** Music Matters. 1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. 2.45 Glorious John. 4.00 100 Great Singers. 4.36 Centurions. 4.30 The Year. 5.45 Sunday Feature: Settling the Score. 6.30 Private Passions. 7.30 Sunday Play: Fugitive Places.
Anne Michaels's award-winning story of love, exile, concealment and loss, and the damage inflicted by the Holocaust on the lives of two survivors. With Timothy Ackroyd, John Hug, Dee Hart and Ray Singer. Adapted and directed by Roger Elsgood. 9.00 Choir Works. For many people, Messiahis one of the sounds of

Christmas time, yet Han-del originally composed It for performance during Holy Week, Brian Kay introduces a recording of a recent performance in Ely Cathedral of this most famous of (soprano), Jean Rigby (mezzo), Thomas Randle (tenor), David Wilson-Johnson (baritone), BBC Singers, Britten Sinfo-nia/Nicholas Cleobury. 11.30 BBC Symphony Orthestra Orchestra. 1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

Radio 4 (924-94.6MHz FM) 6.00 News Briefing. 6.05 Something Understood 6.35 Sunrise Service 6.57 Weather. 7.00 News. 7.05 Sunday Papers. 7:10 Sunday. 7:55 Radio 4 Appeal. 8:00 News. 8:05 Sunday Papers. 8:07 Easter Morning 9.00 News; Broadcasting House. 9.45 Letter from

America. 10.00 The Archers. 11.15 Desert Island 12.00 News; Quote, Unquote. 12.30 Sentimental Journey. **12.58** Weather. 1.00 The World This Weekend. 1.30 All the Rage. 2.00 News; Gardeners' Question Time. 3.00 News; Classic Serial: Villette. 4.00 News; Bookclub. 4.30 Adventures in Poetry. 5.00 News; Face the Facts. 5.40 A Mathematician Reads the Newspapers. 5.54 Shipping Forecast. 5.57 Weather. 6.00 Six O'Clock News.

6.15 Pick of the Week.

7.00 News; The Archers. 7.15 The Copy Snatchers. Guests from

around the world observe, parody and dissect topical British stories from foreign stories from foreign perspectives. Presented by Devid Aaronovitch.
8.00 News: The Irish Play. By Michael Butt. A long forgotten English playwright cashes in on the vogue for Irish drama by resetting his old Essex plays in Kerry. With Freddie Jones and Dillie Keane. Director Peter Kavanagh. (R)
8.30 Nice Work. Alison Mitchell presents the

RADIO

Mitchell presents the series that helps you find new work opportunities and explores the issues and explores are sistes that change and shape your working life.

9.00 News; The Big Game Hunter. The Making and Breaking of Raiph Isham. A2 was a secret prowork set up in

secret network set up in 1919 to spy on British troops. Ralph Isham's incompetent spies helped create the myth of potential Bolshevik revolution in the British revolution in the British Army, Isham ended up a bankrupt collector of notes written by the journalist and satellite of Samuel Johnson - Boswell, Presented by Julian Puttowski. (R) 9.30 Analysis. Mark Leonard. director of the Foreign Policy Centre, asks if Britain needs new policies to be effective in the new global village. 10.00 News; The Westminster Hour. Andrew Rawnsley presents the political head-lines of the next week, live from Westminster. live from Westminster. Including at 10.45 Joining the Club. Four pro-

grammes exploring the experiences of Northern lreand MPs at Westmin-

ster. 4: The Lords. 11.00 News; A Good Read. Sarah LeFanu and

guests, popular children's writer and illustrator

Shirley Hughes, and award-wirning poet Ken Smith, discuss their favourite paperbacks. 11.30 Something Understood. On Easter Day, Mark Tully explores the power and responsi-bitty of those who bear 12.00 News.
12.15 Experimental
Feature: Market Forces.
From fresh fish to
futures, from black pub

to bonds - the rhythms of the market place from Lancashire to the City of London.

12.30 The Late Story:
Black Walls. By Liu XinWu, translated by Alice
Childs. Mr Zhou is Crisos. Mr Znou is painting his walks, but the local community is worried by the colour. Will they complain? Read by Paul Courtenay Hyu. 12.48 Shipping Forecast. Forecast.
1.00 As World Service.
5.30 World News.
5.35 Shipping Forecast.
5.40 Inshore Forecast.

5.45 Prayer for the Day. 5.47 • 6.00 Farming Today. Radio 4 LW (198kHz) 12.00 - 12.04 News Headines, Shipping Forecast. Radio 5 Live Haddlo 5 Live (693, 909kHz MW) 6.00 Brief Lives 6.30 Andrew Neil 9.00 SportsWeek 10.00 Surnday Service 12.00 Salmon in Crisis 12.30 Cars and Girls 1.00 Surnlay Society

12.30 Cars and Girls.
1.00 Sunday Sport.
Tenris: the final day of the Davis Cup tie between Great Britain and the USA Rugby Union: the Tetley's Bitter Cup semi-final between Wasps and Gloucester. Phis news of the rest of

Plus news of the rest of the day's sport. 6.00 The Scottish Premier League.

8.00 Ice Hockey's Super League Final Commentary from the Nynex Arena in Manchester. 9.30 Brief Lives. 5 Live's 19.00 Late Night Currie. With Steve Letevre. 1.00 Up All Night. 5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports. Classic FM

(1000-1019MHz FM) 6.00 Sarah Lucas. 9.00 Nick Bailey. 11.00 Jamie Crick. 1.00 David Mellor. 3.00 Alan Mann. 5.00 John Brunning. 7.00 Sally Peterson. 9.00 Hall of Fame Opera. 11.00 Easter 4.00 Celebration 1.00 Evening Concert. 3.00 6.00 Mark Griffiths. Virgin Radio (1215, 1197-1260kHz MW 105.8MHz FM) 6.00 Pete and Geoff. 10.00 Danny Baker. 1.00 Nick Abbot. 4.00 Mark Forrest, 6.45 London Calling with Mark Forrest/AM Richard Allen. 7.30 Richard Alien. 10.00 James Merritt. 100 - 6.00 Steve

World Service Radio 1.00 The World Today. 2.30 My Century. 2.00 The World Today. 2.30 Meridian (Feature). 3.00 The World Today. 3.30 Global Business. 4.00 The World Today. 4.20 Sports Roundup. 4.30 - 7.00 The World Today. 4.30 The Roundup. 4.30 The Roundup (430-700).

Taik Radio
6.00 My Favourite Year.
7.00 Paul Ross and
Helen Gibson. 10.00
Derek Draper and Peter
Hitchens. 12.00 Sunday
Sport. 6.00 My
Favourite Year. 7.00
Bast of the Week. 8.00
James Whale. 1.00 •
6.00 Mike Dickin. Sky Premier
6.00 The Land before
Time V: the Mysterious
Island (1997) (7887346).
735 Magic in the Water
(1995) (218742). 9.15
Dragorheart (1996)
380433). 1135 The Land
before Time V (1997)
(115839). 12.20 Buzz
(32636). 1.00 Gargantus
(1996) (37764). 3.00
Legend (1985) (94810).
5.00 Dragorheart (1996)
(12572276). 6.50 The Lost
World (1997) (89668278).
9.00 Barry Norman's Film
Night (30758). 9.30 Curtain
Call (1998) (897029). 1135
Hackers (1995) (534094).
1.00 The Last of the High
Kings (1996) (219650). 2.45
- 6.00 The Color Purple
(1985) (70478394).
Sky MovieMax

(1985) (70478394).

Sky MovieMax
6.00 They Wort Beleve
Me* (1947) (64655). 8.00
The Swarm (1978) (8462).
10.00 The Swarm (1978) (8462).
10.00 The Swarm (1978)
2.00 Phenomenon (1996)
(69714). 10.00 The Craft
1996) (678742). 11.45 The
Entity (1983) (23561278).
1.50 Profile for Murder
(1996) (462940). 3.25 The
Crying Chid (1996)
4.08563). 5.00 - 7.00
They Wort Belleve Me*
(1947).
Sky Cinerna

(1947) (65308).

Sky Cinema
11.00 Little Shop of
Horrors* (1961) (5169723).
12.30 Porry Solder (1962)
9637097) 2.00 Derby's
Rengers (1967) (27963810).
4.05 The Italian Job (1969)
(16854704), 6.00 The
Rugitive* (1947) (9057902).
8.00 The Joker is Widt*
(1957) (3152487). 10.00
Linder the Volcano (1984)
(7579617). 12.00 Dirty
Mary, Crazy Larry (1974)
(5557360). 1.35 The Rege
of Paris* (1938) (23703495).
3.00 The Secret of the
Purple Reed (1960)
(37680563). 4.25 Little
Shop of Horrors* (1961)

(27098151), 5.35 Close. (2708151), 5.35 Close.

Film Four
6.00 Bill and Ted's Bogus
Journey (1991) (73775826).
7.40 Waiting for Go
(7197346), 8.00 Rosanne
(1987) (852899), 10.00
Reservoir Dogs (1991)
(856907), 11.50 City on
Fire (1987) (5828094), 1.35
The War Room (1993)
(3926495), 3.30 Bob
Roberts (1982) (1850940),
4.50 - 6.00 The Cosmic
Man* (1959) (2700679).

Discovery Channel

4.00 Wings (947617). 5.00 Flightine (618047). 5.30 Classic Trucks (1008471). 6.00 Myths of Mankind: The Flood (5201723). 7.00 Twisted Tales (6177907). 7.30 Creatmes Entrastic Creatures Fantastic (1085520), 8.00 History's Mysteries (8083433), 9.00 Croc Night: Crocodie Hunter (8003297), 10.00 Croc Night: Ultimate Guide In Crocordies (8003281) to Crocolles (8006384).

11.00 Croc Night: The Beretoot Bushman (3319636). 12.00 Discover Magazine (6341582). 1.00 Justice Files (6153834).

2.00 Close.

2.00 Closa, plo3634).
2.00 Closa, Sky One
6.00 Hour of Power
(A346). 7.00 What-a-Mess
(10029). 7.30 Syber Squad
(26636). 8.00 Orson
(1655). 8.30 Teenage
Alien Fighters (10926). 9.00
The Simpsons (68538).
9.30 Gerfield (38810).
10.00 Dream Team
(15520). 11.00 Wresting
(35384). 12.00 Kung Futhe Legend Continues
(28433). 1.00 Superman
(3781). 2.00 Beverly Hills.
90210 (39310). 3.00 VIP
(39029). 4.00 Star Trek:
Deep Space (45636). 5.00
Star Tirek: Voyager (6097).
6.00 The Simpsons (8891).
7.00 King of the Hill (636).
7.30 3rd Rock from the
Sun (4075). 8.00 Earth:
Final Conflict (63520). 9.00
The X Files (83384). 10.00
Mami Uncovered (86471).
11.00 South Park (46365).
11.30 Forever Knight
(2452). 12.30 LAPO

(40969). **1.00** Sightings (82143). **2.00 - 7.00** Long Play (1008563). Play (1008563).

Sky Sports 1
6.00 World Wide Rugby (59742) 8.00 Aenobics - Oz Style (73094), 8.30

Extreme Saling (72365).
9.00 Fight Night (28520).
11.00 Goals on Sunday (51348). 12.00 Rugby Urion Uodate (19487). 1.30

Gillette World Sport Special (55556). 2.00 Superbouts Hagler v Roldan (42100).
3.00 Budwelser Baskertball (795094). 5.30 Scottish Football St Johnstone v Rangers (671100). 8.30

Football St Johnstone v Rangers (67100), 8.30 Spanish Football (89346), 10.30 Scottish Football (28742), 12.00 Budwelser Basketball (131698), 2.30 Spanish Football (82940), 4.30 - 6.00 Scottish Football (97360).

Football (97360).

Sky Sports 2
6.00 Wetersports World (8370704), 7.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (5977407), 7.30 World (59071642592).

8.00 Soccer Extra (3958522), 11.00 Sports Unlimited (6544600), 12.00 Ford Golf USA (3478013).

The Snow Show (3404433).

5.00 Golf USA (4453925).

8.00 Cricket West Indies v Australia (6634568), 10.30 Ford Golf USA (6107471).

1.30 Rugby Union Update (4109105). 2.30 ice Hocksey (6833785).

5.20 Golf USA (8107471).

1.30 Rugby Union Update (610971).

1.30 Rugby Show (8119563).

Sky Sports 3

The Snow Show (8819583).

Sky Sports 3
12.00 fce Hockey
(51837094), 3.00 Cricket
West Indies v Australia
(9057998), 5.00 Salling
(67612487), 5.30 Cricket
West Indies v Australia
(2989794), 7.00 fce Hockey - Championship Final
(96523094), 10.00 Rugby
Union Update Wasps v
Gloucester (93534471),
11.00 British Reliyoross
Championships (43590162),
11.30 Irish Motorsport
(8264433), 12.00 Close,
Eurosport Eurosport 7.30 Mad Mast

Helen Miren and Julianna Margules (2203037), 1.35 Film: The Ghoul (1974) (65361940), 3.00 - 7.00 Shopping (804114). Snopping (804114).

Living
6.00 Tiny and Crew
(76256723). 6.25 Johnson
and Friends (59953094).
6.40 Tiny Tales (97935100).
6.45 Babaloos (97934471).
6.50 Polka Dot Shorts
(97922636). 7.00 Parenting
(1040279). 7.05 Professor
Bubble (5296346). 7.30
Barney (3342384). 7.55
Parenting (4364520). 8.00
Caillou (9422033). 8.05
Bug Alert (4380568). 8.30 Catiou (9422033), 8.05
Bug Alart (4380568), 8.30
My Zoo (6182365), 8.35
Thry and Crew (7553723),
8.50 Parenting (9726636),
9.00 Mirs Greenthumbs (3668487), 9.30 Cant
Cook, Won't Cook
(2168471), 10.00 Animal
Rescue (1592487), 10.30
Brookside (873051), 12.30
Films The Song of
Bernadette's (9343),
(8117723), 3.30 Films The
Miracle Worker' (1962)

10.30 Termis (18346). 11.30 Swimming (55322181). 1.05 Cycling (52684026). 4.00 Football (7839). 6.00 Swimming (1907). 6.30 Mad Mesters Winter Games (8487). 7.00 Football (61723). 9.00 Termis (86902). 10.00 Sportscentin (816772)

Sportscentre (916177). 10.15 NASCAR (829549). 12.00 Winter Games (98018). 12.30 Close.

UK Gold 7.00 Angels (3302346). 7.30 Blake's Seven

7.30 Blakes Seven (515510). 8.30 Dr Who Ormbus - the Seeds of Doom (25487704). 11.20 Dallas Ormibus (57466587) 1.10 Films Holiday on the Buses (1974) (51523100). 3.00 The Bit Ormibus (40775870). 5.23. Acts the

3.00 The Bif Ormibus (40775810). 5.25 Ask the Family (343747), 6.00 Films: Carry On Agein, Doctor (1969) (58547926). 7.50 The Good Life (7835346), 8.30 Porridge (9567162). 9.25 One Foot in the Algarve (46189075). 11.20 Auf Wiedersehen, Pet (9585636). 12.25 Whatever Happened to the Likely Lads? (5218495). 1.00 Ruby Wax Meets. Helen Mirren and Julianna (811/723), 3.-3U FBMC 1 na Miracle Worker* (1962) (54344704), 5.40 Through the Keyhole (3769013), 6.10 Michael Cole (9570461). Granada Men & Motors (9149907), 2.00 Closs.

(3146), 8.30 Spin City (9433), 9.00 Cheers (81452), 9.30 Cheers (12471), 10.00 Cheers (75452), 10.30 Cheers (84100), 11.00 Erester (75452). 10.30 Cheers (84100). 11.00 Frasier (93297). 11.30 Whose Line is it Anyway? (45297). 12.00 Film: The Purple Rose of Chino (1985) (39124). 1.30 Club Class (74650). 2.00 Almost Perfect (77308). 2.30 Tibs and Fibs (89143). 3.00 Mork and Mindy (57495). 3.30 Abbott & Costello (70495). 4.00 Close. Granada Phus (70495). 4.00 Close.
Granada Plus
6.00 Mission: Impossible
(6177100). 7.00 Bootsle
and Snudge (184758). 7.30
That's My Boy (1000385).
8.30 Time after Time
(1348907). 9.00 Mission:
Impossible (9804013).
10.00 Behind the Velvet
Ropes (8499782). 10.30
Homes with Siyle (1351471).
11.00 Sherhold Holmes
(1019013). 12.00 Jesres 71.00 Sherlock Holmes (1019013). 12.00 Jeaves and Wooster (5556617). 1.00 Maggie and Her (193029). 1.30 Please, Sirl (5569181). 2.00 Potrot (8490471). 3.00 Bonanza (436907). 4.00 The High Chaparral (146742). 5.00 Classic Coronation Street Ornribus (2785346). 7.30 Time after Time (3408520). Offribus (2785346) 7.30 Time after Time (240820). 8.00 Poirot (7569452). 9.00 Jeeves and Wooster (755988), 10.00 In Suspicious Circumstances (7559075), 11.00 As Granada Med & Motors

CD

FULL J-DAY-IV: AND RADIO NETINGS APPEAR INCTHE INFORMATION

حكذا من الاصل

 $TV/R_{egi_{0\eta_{5}}}$

RADIO 1
(978-998MHz FM)
7.00 Mark Goodier. 10.00 Chris
Moyles. 1.00 Emma B. 3.00
Radio 1's R m' B Chart. 5.00
Judge Jules. 7.00 Danny Rampling - Lovegroove Dance Party.
9.00 Westwood - Radio 1 Rap
Show. 12.00 Radio 1 Reggae
Dancehall Nite. 2.00 Radio 1 Live
in London: the Essential Mix.
4.00 - 6.30 Radio 1 Live in
London: Annie Nightingale. mtral

Miral
LW7 Sicopt: 12.30
04891 12.55
04891 22.55
188562 2.00
1867 2.55
1868 3.50
1878 3.50
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1878 3 London: Annie Nightingale. RADIO 2 (88-90.2MHz FM) 6.00 Mo Dutta. 8.05 Brian Matthew. 10.00 Steve Wright's Saturday Show. 100 Mel and Sue's Cornedy Breakdown. 1.30 Heated Rollers. 2.00 Alan Freeman, 3.30 Johnnie Walker, 5.00 tv Wales LWT except: 12.00 Songs of the Century with Paul 1.WT except: 12.00 while 3 decises 12.25 mg 12.25 mg 12.55 mg 13.55 mg 13.5 Gambaccini. 8.00 Joan Armatrading in Concert. 9.00 Sounds of the 70s. 10.00 Bob Harris. 100 Lynn Parsons. 4.00 - 7.00

Mo Dufta.

RADIO 3

6.00 On Air.

(90.2-92.4MHz FM)

12.00 Private Passions. See Pick

1.00 Lunchtime Concert (R)

5.00 Jazz Record Requests.

6.30 Richard Stoltzman. (R)

broadcast of Carlisle Floyd's

7.30 Opera on 3. The first UK

opera which recasts a story from

the Apocrypha in Tennessee. The blameless Susannah is in trouble

with the church elders, but the

only man who can vouch for her

is a cleric who has put himself in

a spot by attempting to seduce

her. With Renee Fleming, soprano

(Susannah Polk), Jerry Hadley, tenor (Sam Polk), Samuel Ramey, bass (Olin Blitch). Chorus and Or-

8.15 New York Stories. Novelists,

essayists and playwrights who

bom novelist Elizabeth Nunez

SKY PREMIER

Revenge of the Twister (1998) (94864). 4.00 All Dogs Go to Heaven II (1996)

7.30 p:review (4048), 8.00 Contact (1997) (309135), See Pick of the

(4574), 6.00 Space Jam (1996) (33951).

12.25 Outrage (1997) (2939162). 1.55

The Palbearer (1996) (635758). 3.35 -

6.00 Flirting with Disaster (1996)

7.00 The Big Game (1995) (88680). 9.00 Fipper (1996) (41661). 11.00

Kingdom of the Spiders (1977) (16357). 1.00 The Big Game (1995) (52777). 3.00 Stx Pack (1982) (15777). 5.00

Kingdom of the Spiders (1977) (32512).

Microcosmos (1997) (63406). 10.30 The Addiction (1997) (7677222). 11.55 Break-

ing the Waves (1996) (49502116). 2.35

11.00 The White Tower (1950) (5841222).

300 Big Jim McLain (1952) (5272357). 30 The Deep Six (1958) (5860357). 6.30 A Blueprint for Murder (1953)

(6473319). 8.00 Around the World in 80

Days (1956) (83940845). 10.15 The Left

Hand of God (1955) (5952628). 11.45

Tower (1950) (6363723). 5.35 Close.

(1989) (42197375). 7.35 Groove Ma

DISCOVERY CHANNEL

Battle of the Bulge (6477951). 6.30

4.00 Flightpath (1043845). 5.00 The

Confessions of a Hitler Youth (1192864).

7.00 Discover Magazine (8103241). 8.00

Scover Magazine (8189661). 9.00 Shoot Thrill (8109425). 10.00 Forensic

Detectives (8102512), 11.00 The Battle of

6.00 Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure

(8382932) 7.45 The Date (8302796). 8.00 it Could Happer To You (1994) (8739319), 10.00 The Taking of Pelham One Two Three (1974) (7619048), 11.55 The Train (1985) (2788283), 2.10 Kids

Are Alright (1978) (6226723). 3.50 - 6.00

Permission to Kill (1975) (1041135). 1.20

Three Secrets (1950) (4922907). 3.00 The Directors (9286146). 4.00 The White

Dark Angel (1996) (6824443). **4.05** - **6.00** Fandango (1984) (913015).

1.00 Abandon Ship (1957) (1515338

SKY CINEMA

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Bent (1996) (40228723).

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100 - 7.00 Fipper (1996) (79932). 9.00

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5.00 SKY MOVIEMAX

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chestra of the Metropolitan

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2.00 Listeners' Choice.

6.00 Jazz Century.

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(1997) (309135), See Mon. or on. 12.55 Day. **10.30** Ereset (1996) (14363883). 2.00 8.00 2.00 2.00 (4)400 (1000) (4)400 (5.05) 9.25 10.5 cm 7.20 r 3: ... -ि_{क्रम} के हैं कि लाग है। इस्केश

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END REVIEW

SATURDAY RADIO

PICK OF THE DAY

THE ACTOR David Suchet, Lepage, Geometry of Miracles currently starring as Salieri in in Saturday Review (7pm R4). Amodeus, talks about his musical Private Passions (12noon R3) and chooses a piano concerto by 3 controller John Drummond the maligned composer.

The Independent's Tom this country is something to be Sutcliffe and guests discuss The proud of and worth paying for -Ground Beneath Her Feet, the pinpointing the first performance new novel-cum-media event by of Peter Grimes in June 1945 as Salman Rushdie (right) along the start of a renaissance. with the latest work by Robert

In A Price Worth Paying (9.55pm R3), the former Radio attempts to explain why opera in DOMINIC CAVENDISH



8.45 Susannah, Act 2. 9.55 A Price Worth Paying. A five-part series in which former Programme. Radio 3 controller John Drum-11.30 From Our Own mond takes a critical look at the Correspondent. state of opera in Britain since 12_00 News; Money Box. 1945. 1: 'A Place for Opera'. Interviews with the Earl of Hare-**12.55** Weather. wood and Sir John Tooley - both **1.00** News. former administrators of London's two world-class opera houses about the postwar formation and 010 0444. **2.30** Think. consolidation of the Royal Opera at Coverit Garden, the revitalisa-

National Opera, and the setting of standards at Glyndebourne. See Pick of the Day. 10.25 Stravinsky. Wind Octet. London Sinfonietta/Esa-Pekka 10.45 Mixing It Mixing It moves

tion of Sadler's Wells and its

metamorphosis into English

to its new, regular Saturday-night home, where regular hosts Mark Russell and Robert Sandali present a unique mix of musical styles and influences. This week, Diango Bates gives an insight into his own character and taste in music by selecting tracks that he has found inspiring over the

11,30 Jazz on 3. 1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night. RADIO 4 (924-946MHz FM) 6.00 News Briefing. 6.05 Sports Desk. 6.10 Open Country. **6.57** Weather. **7.00** Today. 9.00 Home Truths.

10.00 News; Loose Ends. 1L00 News; The Food

12.30 The News Quiz. 1.15 Any Questions?. 2.00 News; Any Answers? 0870

3.00 News: The Saturday Play: Flambards. 4.30 News; Weekend Woman's Hour. 5.00 Saturday PM.

5.30 Talking Pictures. 5.54 Shipping Forecast. **5.57** Weather. 6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.15 The Now Show. 6.45 Hearing with Hegley. (R) 7.00 News; Saturday Review. See Pick of the Day.

7.45 Friendship: The One Good Thing. Friendship is, in the words of Cicero, the one good thing. in the second of two pro-grammes, Sandy McCall-Smith flustrates how the tricky moral dilemmas of friendship have engaged the minds of philosophers through the ages.

8.00 News; The Archive Hour: Redeeming Features. Four programmes in which Piers Plowright visits the BBC sound archives to listen to radio feature highlights that have excited him. 1: Playtime'. Many people enjoy

9.00 News; Classic Serial: The Awakening. Kate Chopin's tale of one woman's pursuit of moral and sexual freedom in turnof-the-century New Orleans is dramatised by Jyll Bradley. Her summer affair may be over, but Edna's life will never be the same. Part 2. With Lorelei King, Briony Glassco and Matilda Ziegler. Director Jonquil Panting. 10.00 News and Weather.

10.15 The Moral Maze. Michael Buerk and regulars Janet Daley, David Starkey, lan Hargreaves and David Cook investigate the moral questions behind the week's news. 11.00 News; Crossing Over. Robin Denselow talks to musicians who have fallen in love with music from another culture. 4: Belinda Sykes finds the true voice of a medieval troubadour in

modern Morocco. (R) **11.30** Radio Poem. 12.00 News. 12.25 Experimental Feature: Startales. Our struggle to understand the cosmos. 12.30 The Late Story: Inside the Whale. By Fay Weldon, read by Oliver Ford Davies. 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 5.30 World News **5.35** Shipping Forecast.

5.50 - 6.00 Bells on Sunday. RADIO 4 LW (198kHz) 12.00 - 12.04 News Headlines; Shipping Forecast.

5.40 Inshore Forecast

RADIO 5 LIVE (693, 909kHz MW) 6.00 Dirty Tackle. 6.30 Breakfast. 9.00 Chiles on Saturday. **1L00** Sportscall. 12.00 The Treatment. **1.00** Sport on 5. 6.06 Six-O-Six. 8.00 Move It. The issues that matter to Britain's transport users. **8.30** Getting Buy without the Banks. A report on the problems caused when banks concentrate on premium services for wealthier customers. (R)

9.00 Globa 10.00 Late Night Currie. With Steve Lefevre. 1.00 Up All Night. 5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

CLASSIC FM (100.0-101.9MHz FM) 6.00 Sarah Lucas. 9.00 Paul Gambaccini. 11.00 Henry Kelly. 1.00 Susannah Simons. 3.00 Mike Read. **5.00** Margaret Howard. **7.00** Simon Bates. **9.00** Opera Guide. **10.00** The Classic Quiz. 12.00 Midnight Music. 2.00 Evening Concert. 4.00 -6.00 Sunday Start. **VIRGIN RADIO** (1215, 1197-1260kHz MW

1058MHz FM) 6.00 Pete and Geoff. 9.00 Harriet Scott. 12.00 Russ Williams. 2.00 Rock and Roll Football. 5.30 Wheels of Steel. 10.00 Richard Allen. 2.00 - 6.00 James Merritt.

WORLD SERVICE RADIO (198kHz LW) 1.00 The World Today. 1.30 Seeing Stars. 1.45 Write On. 2.00 The World Today. 2.30 Music Review. 3.00 The World Today. 3.30 World Business Review. 3.45 Letter from America. 4.00 The World Today. 4.20 Sports Roundup. 4.30 Agenda. 5.00 The World Today. 5.30 -6.00 Omnibus.

TALK RADIO 6.00 OK to Talk. 8.00 Get Your Kit On with Bob Mills. 11.00 It's Round and White - with Tom Watt. 2.00 Saturday Soccer. 5.05 505 with Gary Newborn and Tom Watt. 7.30 Nancy Roberts. 10.00 Dave Barrett. 2.00 - 6.00 Mike Dickin.

Greedysaurus and the Gang (7123406) 8.25 My Zoo (8571574), 8.30 Tiny and Crew (8597067), 8.50 Practical Parenting (9824864), 9.00 Mrs Greenthumbs

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS

historic victory of 10-year-old Mur- 35 ... a5?! may have been inaccurate ugan Thiruchelvam from New - I prefer 35 ... Rd5 and if 36 Rh5 Malden against the grandmaster Jonathan Levitt in the third game of their rapidplay match last Sunday.

Since learning chess at the age of three (!) Murugan has already racked up a fistful of world firsts including a draw with the formidable grandmaster Bogdan Lalic - last October, well before his 10th birthday on 11 December and qualification for a national championship (the British, of course) this January

But, for all his palms, the most important thing is the quality of the young man's play. After last Sunday's match, which, to recap, he took quite easily after defeating a tired opponent in the last two games, Levitt said, "his potential is similar to Luke McShane's. I don't know of any other 10-year-old like him." Murugan himself stated that "the result made up for a loss against Nigel Short in the House of Commons. Next year I should like to try for Imre Hera of Hungary's IM norm record at 11 years seven months."

On Wednesday, I felt obliged to give Murugan's win. But in fact that was scrappy, and a much more impressive achievement was his truly master-strength preparation and 14 Kh1 0-0 endgame play in the previous game. In a highly theoretical line of the 16 Qf3 Kxg7 French Tarrasch championed by 17 Bh6+ Kg6 Levitt, Murugan "decided to follow McShane vs Levitt (played last 19 Bc1 Bf4 year at the Four Nations Chess 20 g4 Ng3+

League: and see what happens". Levitt was the first to vary on 22 Raxcl b6 move 31, when he preferred the im- 23 Bc2+ Kg7 mediate 31 ...b5 to 31 ...Rbd7 32 Re2 24 Be4 Rb8 b5 which he played against Luke to 25 Rc2 Bb7 achieve a considerably easier draw. 26 Rh2 Bxe4 Although Black had structural 27 Qxe4 Qb7 compensation for White's extra 28 Rxh7+ Kg8

ON WEDNESDAY I reported on the pawn, White retained an edge and

Rxh5+ 37 gxh5 Kh6 38 g4 Kg5. Still, 45 ... Rb3! 46 Rxa4 Rc3 should have drawn - the rook attacks the pawn from the side and can check the white king away if he approaches.

But Murugan stumbled at the last. 53 Ke5! Ra5+ 54 Kd6 Rxg5 55 Kc6! (not 55 Rc8? Rg6+!) looks winning to me, eg 55 ...Rxg3 56 Rb8 Ra3 57 Kb6 Rb3+ 58 Kc7 Ra3 59 Kb7 Rb3+ 60 Ka8 Ra3 61 Rb6 f5 (61 ... f6 also loses) 62 Kb7 f4 63 a7 f3 64 a8Q

White: Murugan Thiruchelyam Black: Jonathan Levitt French Tarrasch

1 e4 e6 29 Qxb7 Rxb7 2 d4 d5 30 Rh2 Rd3 3 Nd2 c5 31 Kg2 b5 4 exd5 Oxd5 32 Re2 b4 5 Ngt3 cxd4 33 cxb4 Rxb4 6 Bc4 Qd6 34 Rh4 Kg7 7 0-0 Nc6 35 Kh3 a5?! 8 Nb3 Nf6 36 Rh5 Rd5 9 Nbxd4 Nxd4 37 Rxd5 exd5 10 Nxd4 a6 38 Rd2 a4 11 Re1 Qc7 39 a3 Rb5 12 Bb3 Bd6 40 g5 Kg6 13 Nf5 Bxh2+ 41 Kg4 Rc5 42 Rd4 Rc2 15 Nxg7 Rd8 43 Rxd5 Rxb2 44 Rd6+ Kg7 45 Ra6 Ra2 18 c3 Nh5 46 Rxa4 Ra1 47 Ra8 Ra2 48 a4 Ra3 21 fxg3 Bxc1 49 a5 Ra2 50 a6 Ra4+ 51 Kf5 Ra5+ 52 Kf4 Ra4+ 53 Kf3 Ra3+ 54 Kf2 Ra2+ 55 Ke1 Ra5 56 a7 1/2-1/2

BRIDGE ALAN HIRON

"IT WORKS, doesn't it?" was South's comment after landing his slam on this deal. He was referring to the Principle of Restricted Choice but, as was revealed by a closer analysis, he should have had no need to fall back on this.

South opened One Heart and, with an awkward call, North temporised with Two Clubs. Matters did not improve when his partner jumped to Three Hearts (perhaps Two Spades was a good alternative?) and North manufactured his next bid of Three Spades. There was a further unwelcome development when South raised to Four Snades, but North converted to Five Hearts and South bid the

West led ⋄ Q against Six Hearts and, after winning with his ace, East switched to a trump. In practice declarer simply drew trumps and turned his attention to the spades. The ace and queen saw West follow with the four and jack and now, on the third round of the suit, declarer finessed ◆9 successfully. The point, of course, was that if West had started with ♣ J104, he could equally well have played the jack or the ten on the second round but, with \$ J4 alone, he would have had no choice.

No.3887 Saturday 3 April

Game all: dealer South North **♦**A Q 2 ΨAQ 07643 **4**6432 West East **∳**J4 ♠10873 ₹743 ₹65 ♦QJ10952 ♦A8 ♣Q 10 9 7 5 **4**38 South **◆**K965 %KJ10982 **♣**A K

Well, what would have been a better line of play? Try winning the trump in dummy and ruffing a diamond. Cross to the other high trump and ruff another diamond. Now draw the last trump, cash ♣ A K and, after entering dummy with A, ruff a club. Do you see the point now? By this time West has been proved to have started with three hearts, six diamonds, and two clubs; he must therefore hold only two spades. After this, the finesse of #9 on the third round of the suit is a certainty - not just a 2

SATELLITE AND CABLE

PICK OF THE DAY

JODIE FOSTER (right), a Yale convinced that she is being intelligence is allowed to shine and one Bill Clinton co-star. through. She plays a scientist in Contact (8pm Sky Premier). contact with an alien race. When she does, she becomes

graduate, always impresses instructed how to travel to meet most in roles where her natural them. Matthew McConaughey

Rugby Union: Richmond vs Newcastle (2pm Sky Sports 2) a taut sci-fi thriller from Robert features two clubs who have Zemeckis, which is receiving its recently undergone financial satellite premiere tonight. The restructuring, but that hasn't director harnesses his mastery stopped them progressing to the of special effects to this story of semi-final of the Tetley's Bitter a woman obsessed with making Cup. Expect a crunching clash between two powerful sides. JAMES RAMPTON



the Bulge (6206970). 12.30 Confessions of a Hitter Youth (6446094). 1.00 Weapons of War (6186162). 2.00 Close. SKY ONE 7.00 What-a Mess (44488). 7.30

Superhuman Samurai Syber Squad (83135), 8.00 The Adventures of Sinbad (46086), **9.00** The Simpsons (46715). 9.30 Garfield and Friends (64609). 10.00 Xena: Warrior Princess (89319). 11.00 World Wrestling Federation Live Wire (92883). 12.00 World Wrestling Federation Shot Gun (47932), 1.00 The New Adventures of Superman (56680). 2.00 America's Dumbest Criminals (1241). 2.30 America's Dumbest Criminals (3195). 3.00 Guilty! (52390). 4.00 Star Trek Deep Space Nine (71425). 5.00 Star Trek: Voyager (1628). 6.00 Xena: Warnior Princess 431161, 7.00 VIP (13999), 8.00 Dating Hell (99319), 9.00 Films Sky One Special Feature: Look Whols Talking (1989) (20139951). 10.45 JAG (153845). **11.45** Showbiz Weeldy (944999). **12.15** Unsolved Mysteries (433574). **1.15** Fire (569098). **2.15** – **6.00** Long Play (45680636).

SKY SPORTS 1 6.00 Hold the Back Page (51883). 7.00 Sky Sports Centre (70067). 8.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (32951). 8.30 Recing News (31222). 9.00 Super League: Wigan vs St Helens (74222). 10.00 Australian Rugby League: Manly vs Souths (66406). 12.00 Gillette Soccer Saturday (4975628). 6.00 Bobby Charlton's Football

Scrapbook (66203). **7.30** Spanish Football (948048). **10.00** Saturday Fight Night (27721). 12.00 Spanish Football (37988). 2.00 Saturday Fight Night (90075). 4.00 - 6.00 Golf USA (56655). SKY SPORTS 2

6.00 Ruoby Union Update (8476932) 7.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (6628195), 7.30 Racing News (7173280). 8.00 Soccer AM (5230777). 12.00 Australian Rules Football (3574241). 2.00 Rugby Union: Richmond vs Newcastle (2819970), See Pick of the Day. 4.30 Ice Hockey (8148067). **10.00** Ford Golf USA (4569406). **12.00** Australian Rules Football (5188723). 2.00 World Wide Ruoby - Super 12s Tournament (2279617). 4.00 Rugby Union Update: Richmond vs Newcastle (2088162). 5.30 - 6.00 Irish Motor Sport (8841891).

SKY SPORTS 3 12.00 Worldwide Rugby (62761241). 2.00 Max Power (62759406). 3.00 Cricket : West Indies vs Australia 167645715), 5.30 Cricket: West Indies vs Australia (94665390). 10.00 Rugby Union Update: Richmond vs Newcastle (4845154). 11.30 Rebel Sports (62747661).

EUROSPORT 7.30 YOZ Mag - Youth Only Zone (10965). 8.30 Mad Masters Winter Games (26390). 9.00 Mountain Bike (40970) 9.30 Roller Skating (95357). 10.30

Strength (37845). **11.30** Swimming (81859574). **1.40** Curling (33449951). **4.00** Football (5222). **6.00** Swimming (9390). 6.30 Mad Masters Winter Games (3970). 7.00 Tennis (965715). 9.30 Jet Sking (21203), **11.00** Snowboarding (48086), **12.00** Mad Masters Winter Games (51907). 12.30 Roller Skating (30926)

1,00 Close. **UK GOLD** 7.00 Angels (3408574), 7.30 Neighbours (79417883), 9.25 Dalas (51784390), 12.10

EastEnders (71862715), 3.00 The Bil (40897086), 5.20 Films: Thoroughly Modern Millie (1967) (32963425), 8.00 What a Carry Onl (9948406), 8.35 ected Canned Carrott (9683154), 9.35 Thin Blue Line (6678222). 10.15 Red Dwarf VI (4844970). 10.55 Monty Python's Flying Circus (3525319). 11.35 Live at Jongleurs (7166067). 12.10 Film: Fahrenheit 451 (1966) (3092297). 210 Sight and Sound (2429471). 3.00 -7.00 Shopping (4746902). LIVING

6.00 Tiny and Crew (76352951). 6.25 Johnson and Friends (59059222). 6.40 Tiny Tales (91048628) 6.45 Babaloos (91047999), 6.50 Polka Dot Shorts (91028864). 7.00 Practical Parenting (TI46406), 7.05 Alfred J kwak (4904048). 7.25 Tiny and Crew '98 (1158241). 7.30 Caillou (1168796). 7.35 Bug Alert (8635390), 7.55 Practical Parenting (4477048). 8.00 10 plus 2 (6478113). 8.10 Tiny and Crew '98 (8583319). 8.15

(3691715). 9.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (2279999). 10.00 Maury Povich 79999), **10.50** Living Hoom (7505390 H.40 Rolonda (2275661). 12.30 Film: Doing Time on Maple Drive (1991) (22156661). 2.15 Film: Picnic at Hanging Rock (1975) (27086715). 4.25 Special Ba-bies (5215135). 5.00 Entertainment Nowl (85267406). 5.10 The Roseanne Show -Highlights (51656512). **5.40** Through the Keyhole (3865241). **6.10** Michael Cole 6726749), **7.00** Rescue 911 (7673116), 7.30 Beyond Belief (1167116), 8.00 Ally McBeal (1158131), 9.00 Jerry Springer Double Bill (72207796). 10.45 Entertain ment Nowl (7782715), 11.00 Sex Life Down Under (3139574), 12.00 Close. TNT 9.00 Blow-Up (1966) (36352785), 11.15

Point Blank (1967) (35210574). 1.00 The earless Vampire Killers (1967) (90583181). 3.00 A Very Povate Affair (1962) (84888013), 5.00 Close.

PARAMOUNT COMEDY CHANNEL 7.00 Clueless (9661). 7.30 Grace under Fire (2628), 8.00 Mad about You (5609). 8.30 Spin City (4116) 9.00 Cheers theers (41609) 10.30 Cheers (50357).

(17241) 9.30 Cheers (68864). 10.00 11.00 Frasier (29086). 11.30 Whose Line is it Anyway? (97864). 12.00 Film: Radio Days (1987) (12297) 1.30 Club Class (44839) 2.00 Almost Perfect (34433). 2.30 Tibs and Fibs (53568). 3.00 Mork and Mindy (26574). 3.30 Abbott & Costello (37520) 4.00 Close. GRANADA PLUS

6.00 Hart to Hart (6280628). 7.00 Bootse and Snudge (1127086). 7.30 That's My Boy (1106593). 8.00 Watching (1445864). 8.30 No Strings (1444135). 9.00 The Avengers (9900241). 10.00 Persuaders (1102777), **11,00** Man in a Suncase (1115241). 12.00 Fiddlers Three (1448951) 12.30 Emmerdale (7026680). 3.00 Bonanza (4232135) 4.00 The High Chaparral (4244970), 5.00 Hawaii Five-O (5681357). 7.00 The Avengers (7656932). 8.00 The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (7665680), 9.00 Frankle Howerd Reveals #.: (7652116), 10.00 The Freddie Starr Experience (7655203). 11.00 As Granada Men & Motors (9245135). 2.00 Close.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

BBC1 N IRELAND As BBC1 except: 4.40 Final Score (2386593), 5.00 Northern Ireland Results (1425947), 5.25 Newstine (7977208). **BBC1 SCOTLAND** As BBC1 except: 4.40 Afternoon Sportscene (9651154), 5.25 Reporting Scotland (7977208), 10.35 Sportscene Match of the Day (5298319), 12.05 The

Lily Savage Show (8177907). BBC1 WALES As BBC1 except: 4.40 Final Score (2395241), 4.55 Wales on Saturday (2381048), 5.25 Wales Today (7977208).

As UNT except: 12.30 Stepping the World (4513). 1.05 Angla News and Weather (15137999). 2.15 FIA European Drag Racing Championships (529203). 3.15 Film: Charley and the Angel Small town storekeeper Fred MacMurray is town storescaper Fred meanwaray is watched over by helpful angel Harry Morgan. Sentimental Disney whitnsy with an attractive "30s setting. With Kurt Russell. (547680). \$.15 Angla News and Sport (58/3319). 1.55 Film: The Deadly Companions. Ex-Army seggeant Brian Ketth escorts a funeral procession through hostile Apache tentitory in Sam

Peckinpah's debut feature, a characteristically sardonic Western drame. (915926). 3.35 Box Office America (44)33742, 4.00 World Football (89672108), 4.25 CD UK (7350075), 5.20 ITV Nightscreen (9869346). CENTRAL

As LWT except: 12.30 Eastern Mix (4513). 1.05 Central News and Weather (15137999). 2.45 Early Edition (1485883). 3.05 The Secret KGB UFO Files. Former '007' Roger Moore hosts a programme in which spies and former KGB agents reveal previously unknown UFO secrets. including a tale of how nuclear war was almost sparked when a pair of MiG jets tried to shoot down a UFO and wer themselves blown out of the sky. And film smuggled out of Russia provides evidence that the Soviets recovered thing not of this earth. (8556796) Sometiming not of this ear II. (8000/90).

1.25 TimeCop (7985357). 5.10 Central
News, Weather and Goals Extra (7520'61).

11.00 News; Weather (946241). 4.15
Jobfinder (8270'100). 5.00 Spotlight Asia

HTV WALES As LWT except: 12.30 Movies, Games and Videos (4513). 1.05 HTV News and Weather (15137999). 2.15 Pirate

TV (481845). 2.45 Cartoon (5662203). 2.55 Dinosaurs (2460086). 3.25 Airwolf (311845). 4.20 TimeCop (2492777). 5.15 HTV News (5813319). 1.55 Film: The Deadly Companions (915926), 3,35 Box Office America (44733742), 4,00 World Football (89672108), 4,25 CD UK (7350075). 5.20 Nightscreen (9869346). HTV WEST

Resed Out. Series in which members of the public get a chance to prove themselves in the media. In this edition. someone else is given the chance to co-host the show with Vanessa Bewley and Simon Knight. (45113). 2.15 Movies, Games and Videos (481845). 2.45 Pirate TV (48016), 3.15 Warner Brothers Cartoon (6176154), 5.15 HTV West News and Sport (5813319). MERIDIAN

As LWT except: 12.30 Pier Pressure. The programme that presents the arts from a youthful point of view, with fastmoving, up-to-the-minute reports on too bands, events and trends. (45113). 1.05 Meridian News and Weather (15137999). 2.15 FIA European Drag Racing Championships (629203). 3.15 Film: Charley and the Angel (547680), 5.15

Meridian News and Weather (5813319). 1.55 Firm: The Deadty Companions (915926). 3.35 Box Office America (44133742), 4.00 World Football (89672108), 4.25 CD UK (7350075), 5.20 WESTCOUNTRY

As LWT except: 12.30 Movies, Games and Videos H51131. 1.05 stcountry News (15137999). 2.15 Film. That Dam Cat! A sinky Stamese tums leine lederal investigator after a kidnapping in Disney comedy After an hour, you might be camapping. With Hayley Mills, Dean Jones. (33669406). 4.20 TimeCop. Sci-fi adventure series about a cop who thes to prevent chiminals from using time travel to alter the past and change the world. (2401425) 5.10 Westcountry News (7520131), 1.55 Film The Deadly Companions (9:5926) 3.35 Box Office America (44:33742) 4.00 World Football (89672108) 4.25 CD UK (7350075). 5.20 ITV Nightscreen

YORKSHIRE As LWT except: 12.30 Dinosaurs (45113). 1.05 Calendar News (15137999). 5.10 Calendar News and Weather (4622131), 5.45 Scoreline (5813319).

TYNE TEES As Yorkshire except: 1.05 North East News and Weather (15137999). 5.10 North East News and Weather (4622131). 5.15 Full Time (5813319). S4C

As Channel 4 except: 12.00 Board Stupid (18049932) 1.05 Film: The Belles of St Trimans". First of the four farces leaturing Ronald Searle's celebrated pigtailed savages. And, by some distance, the best. The purely English delights include Alastair Sim in drag. George Cole (as a spiv with sideburns), the inimitable Joyce Grenfell, and a bevy of extremely grown-up-looking schoolgirls in black stockings (65307883), **5.05** Newyddion (41578406), **540** Y Clwb Rygbi (37480048). 7.45 Newyddion a Chwaraeon (68124777) 8.00 Gwahoddiad (41006116). 8.30 Dilyn Ddoe (+10/8951) 9.00 Dan vr Wyneb (9095816) 9.30 The Coroner Documentary series about the work of a commerc office, eavesdropping on the daily routines of this somewhat macabre Institution. (21899777) 10.30 Top Ten. Renth Chegwin lines up the most annoying records of all time (5078954) 12.05 Le Petit Package, French short drama. (29212278) 5.00 Close.

CONCISE CROSSWORD

ACROSS

Golfer's item (3) Stun (5) Game bird (8) Test (4)

Kinship (12)

10 Of value (6) 12 Shoe reinforcement (6) 14 Agitator (12) 18 Assist (4)

19 Bother (8) 20 Cardinal point (5)

21 Group (3)

Garments (1-6) Electronic communication (1-4)

DOWN

Fight (3-2) Supervise (7) Uniform colour (5) Metrical foot (6) 11 Consternate (7) 12 Bird (6)

13 Fruit (7) 15 Outlaw featured on Christmas cards? (5) 16 Tiffin (5) 17 Romantic poet (5)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:

ACROSS: 1 Cynic, 4 Ewer (Sinecure), 8 Cracide, 9 Brine, 10 Dote, 11 Decrease, 12 Vaniage points, 15 Semester, 17 Asti, 20 Rumba, 21 Trapeze, 22 Ache, 23 Event, DOWN: 1 Chaster, 2 Nike, 3 Creme de menthe, 4 Embargo, 5 Erica, 6 Acid, 7 Recess, 12 Vestry, 13 Assuage, 14 Nascent, 16 Mimic, 18 Idea, 19 Care.



e only one with a id to the picture he agreement aultfines have Z S

Z E

7.20 Birds of a Feather. Dorien has an ulterior motive for inviting Tracey to a posh do (R) (S) (T) (527947).

speculation and rumo etted by their partners-me, onlineus music and i

essed as a giant aub inpoint. Even more b staurant customer. W owling round street c one (S) (T) (349989).

Z

10.20 News; Weather (T) (274715) 10.35 Match of the Day. Desmon

11.50 The Word on the Street (5) (623048), 12.05 Jasper Carrott - Back to the Front (5) (T) (8177907). 12.35 Top of the Pops (S) (T) (2485433). 1.05 TIME Night Eyes (Jag Munchra 1990 US). The sort of "erotic thriller" Channel 5 usually sits later in the evening, this one has a husband hiring a security guard to spy on his wife after she files for divorce. You can guess the rest. No stars (Then Weather) (S) (5039758).

STAY IN WITH A GOOD BOOK.

BBC

Insters (T) (9271864). **7.25** News; Weather

7.30 Children's BBC: Little Monsters (S)

12.15 12.10

ruotoali News (1613796). **4.20** (5167338). **4.40** Final Score (9 dstand (S) (9639899). 12.20 Football Focus 964). 1.20 Racing from Haydock Park (8417224). Rowing and Touring Cars (5831716). 1.55 Racing Haydock Park (58330067). 2.10 Rowing and 10 the Grounds (3530916). 2.25 Racing from 10 the Grounds (3530916).

News; Weather (T) (5837999), **5.25** Regional Neward Weather (7977208).

5.30 Grandstand - Davis Cup Tennis. Great Britain take on the USA in a doubles match at Birmingham's National Indoor Arena. Commentary from John Barrett, Chris Bailey, Mark Cox, Peter Fleming and Sue Barker

7.50 The National Lottery - We've Got Your Number. Brian Conley hosts the calling of the big-money balls (S) (T) (976680).

7.50 Wildlife on Two. David Attenborough-narrated wildlife documentary about the wild horses of North America - the mustangs (R) (S) (974222).

45 Egypt's Lost City. Documentary telling the story behind the astonishing and revolutionary cult introduce by pharach Akhenaten – Tutankhamun's father – to the city of Amarna, which now lies in ruins. Akhenaten and his followers worshipped the sun, and the highly ambitious city was to be dedicated to the deity. Historic Tony Spawforth takes up the story (S) (T) (330241).

QIODE Bonnie and Clyde (Arthur Penn 1967 US). Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway are the Depressionera outlaws in Penn's ground-breaking "biography". See.

11.40 Am

12.30 Storyville - Resurrection. How Cuba's cametaries are too small and how bodies have to be exhumed after three years to make space (S) (45810). Fregments: Jerusalem. A personal ly City from documentary maker Roned by Weatherview) (123723). To 235am. 3.25

BBC2

6.35 IIIM in Old California (William McGann 1942 US). Minor John Wayne goldrush western (4088406).

6.00

9.25

8.00 Weekend 24 (S) (95338).

8.00 IIIM The Shepherd of the Hills (Henry Hathaway 1941 US), Missouri lad John Wayne grew up blaming his absent father for his mother's death – and now sets out find and kill him (68110970).

11.30 IEUM The Conqueror (Dick Powell 1956 US). Wayn yet again – this time in a pointy hat as Genghis Khan in this Judicrous Oriental western. Filmed on the Utah blast eite of the atomic bomb, after which many members of the cast and crew died of cancer (55572357).

5.30 [3][M] The Tall Stranger Western with ex-Union Army of

6.50 (A)(D)(A) In the Footsteps (Chatwin's biographer, Nicholas Stallourney of discovery, See Docubelow (S) (T) (441135).

9.05 Never Mind the Buzzcoc Wright of Terrorvision, Howard Feeder, and comedian Bill Bai 9.00

10.00

ž ë TV News; Weather; Lottery Result (T) (946241).

10.40 See Hear on Saturday (8510135). **11.20** Turning Points (9598864). **11.25** Turning Points (R) (T) (9597135)

1.15 IIIM Legend of the Lost (Henry Hathaway 1957 US/Pan/It). Even more Wayne – here larking about in the Libyan desert with Sophia Loren (16046845).

3.00 Bitesize Britain (S) (6151845). **3.10** Curlew River (S) (1612721). **4.30** Davis Cup Tennis (S) (35226).

00.0

6,20 0

Sters in Their Eyes. A pipe-fitter who thinks he's Ronan Kealing and a "bank cilent co-ordinator" (don't ask) with a bit of the Toyah Willcox about her (S) (T) (611626).

The Jerry Springer Show (R) (S) (T) (3147758).

Early Edition (S) (8463680), **5.10** London Weekend Tonight (T) (7520131).

The New Addams Family. Aliens needing fuel attempt to kidnap Uncte Fester (S) (T) (25).

ITV News; Sports Results; Weather (T) (179339).

9.00 Fracier. As shown last night, Frasier gets a surprise visit from Woody (Woody Harrelson) from his Cheers days. They reminisce (R) (S) (T) (3048).

9.30 Top Ten: Really Annoying Records. Keith Chegwin presents a guide to the top 10 worst records of all time – actually a pretty familiar bunch thanks to programmes like this. So welcome back Black Lace, Joe Dolce's "Shudduppa Yo Face" and the St Winifred's School Choir singing "Grandma" (T) (674715).

2.50 Night Stand (181079), **3,40** Russell Grant's Postcards (14284810), **3.50** Riptide (8436075). To 4,40em.

TELEVISION GUIDE HY GERARD GILBERT

Absorbing, if rather fanciful, biography of British Illm ploneer William Friese-Greene, the 19th-century inventor of the motion-picture camera, who died penniless and unrecognised. Robert Donat is perfect as Friese-Greene, and a host of heavyweight thespians provide support, including Robert Beatty (as Lord Beaverbrook), Michael Redgrave, Richard Attenborough and, as a policeman, Laurence Olivier (558796).

11,05 Queer as Folk (5/8241), 11.50 Sex and the City (T) (657970), 12,20 John Peel's Sounds of the Suburbs: Bradford (8/84297), 12,50 West Heath Yard (T) (426177), 12.55 [7][ji] The Last Days of Frank and Jesse James (Willam A Graham 1986 US), Johnny Cash and Kris Kristofferson retell the old story (2488094). 11.20 [IIIM] Confessions from a Holiday Camp (Norman Cohen 1977 UK). Barrel-scraping bawdiness from Robin Askwith and regulars (2427715).

3.15 Pop-Up Video (38636). 3.45 The Trip (4437568). 4.10 The Clangers (84395182). To 435sm.

SMTV Live (S) (15395(35), **11.30** CD UK (S) (99425). **12.30** Wannabe (S) (T) (45113). **1.00** ITV News; Weather (T) (15/38628). **1.05** London Weekend Today (T) (15/37899). **1.10** On the Ball (T) (25037/5), **1.45** NBA 98 (T) (499864).

6.30 Channel 4 News; Weather. Presented by Jon Snow and including all Saturday's sporting news (T) (32).

Channel

Channel 5

THE WEEKEND REVIEW
The independent 3 April 1999

EVISION

35 **11M** The Wedding March (Erich von Stroheim 1928 US). Film historian Kevin Brownlow provides an informative introduction to this restored print of the classic silent epic about a doomed love affair between a prince and a commoner. It includes a rare interview with its star, Fay Wray, who recalls her first meeting with von Stroheim, the film's director, who originally intended the film to be in two parts (21976390).

2.45 Channel 4 Racing from Kempton and Towcester. Lesley Graham Introduces the 3:0, 3:40, 4:10 and 4:45pm from Kempton and the 2:55 and 4:25pm from Towcester (80588883).

3.20 Sunset Beach Omnibus. Antonio decides to leave, possibly the wisest thing anyone has ever done in this insene series (R) (S) (T) (59354067).

Brookside Omnibus. All the week's misfortune in full (R) (S) (T) (8160116).

€.00 ¥

5.55 5 News and Sport (S) (T) (3334609).

Hercules: The Legendary Journeys. Trying to escape a band of marauding barbarians whose leader they have captured, Hercules and loies seek safety in an old fortress occupied by an aged warrior and his daughter. Oh aye? (R) (S) (4603661).

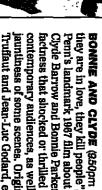
8.00 Viking Saga. Two-part documentary about the Vikings, beginning in Scandinavia with the detection of a Viking longship. The popular myth of rape and pillage does not tie in with the historical facts, which reveal an inventive and cultured race that left behind a rich legacy – and also "discovered" America centuries before Columbus (1) (8086).

حكذا من الاحل

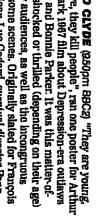
1.25 TIME The Killer (John Woo 1889 HK). This is pre-Hollywood Woo's terrific but totally med

FILM OF THE DAY

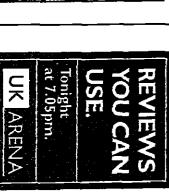
they are in love, they kill people", ran one poster for Arthur Penn's landmark 1967 film about Depression-era outlaws Clyde Barrow and Bonnie Parker. It was this matter-of-factness that shocked or thrilled (depending on their age) contemporary audiences, as well as the incongruous jauntiness of some scenes. Originally slated for François Truffaut and Jean-Luc Godard, eventual director Penn cipided fine performances from Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway (right). Followed by a documentary in which Penn, Beatty and others discuss the film's genesis and impact.

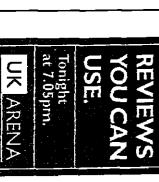


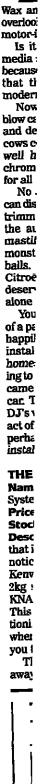
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<u>18</u>

Prigned to living BUILT FOR LIFE Magnet

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IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF BRUCE CHATWIN (650pm BBC2) There's a brief and shocking shot of Chatwin start

Win committee of the control of the control of the of the control of the control

PASSION KILLERS (10pm ITV) If you're in mood – and it is Easter, after all – you might i between this comedy drama (right) from the Feet (Charles Peattie and Mark Warren) and

COMEDY DRAMA OF TI

HE DAY

DOCUMENTARY OF THE DAY

